Appendix 1

CLIMATE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN CATEGORISED BY PLACE STRATEGY JOURNEY

PRIDE IN PLACE

- Solar panels are now on all One Leisure sites, which has saved nearly £87,000 in energy bills for HDC allowing reinvestment into leisure services
- As part of Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership collaborated on producing a local action energy plan
- 20 tonnes of WEEE collected
- HDC provided equipment and collection services enabling 200 litter pick ups
- 2,249 trees planted in the District by HDC's arboriculture team
- HDC received 4 Green Flag awards for 4 of its parks in Huntingdon and St Neots

TRAVEL TRANSFORMED

- HVO fuel now in all standard diesel vehicles across the HDC fleet, which has so far saved 960 tonnes of CO2. Partnerships continue with the police and fire service

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

- HDC's electricity is on a green tariff on its main sites from Sept 2024. This has resulted in 0% emissions for Scope 2 for 2025-2026
- Bio4All programme has concluded delivering diverse range of initiatives to enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience and better connect communities with nature across Huntingdonshire
- HDC established in-house habitat banking programme to support biodiversity net gain delivery across the District
- HDC held its 3rd annual climate climate conversation entitled 'Together for Tomorrow'

HEALTH EMBEDDED

- Total of 41 ECO 4 FLEX applications submitted allowing boiler upgrades for eligible residents
- 14 Warm Homes Upgrade Grant Grants (WHUG) awarded in Year 1
- (of 3) allowing retrofit on eligible properties
- Continued partnerships with nappy recycling and Mooncup schemes
- Food for Nought programme has prevented an estimated 14.3 tonnes of CO2 emissions through the community fridge network
- Laptop upcycling enabled them to be passed to vulnerable residents assisting them in various ways

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

- Partnership with Cambridgeshire Carbon Footprint providing training and use of thermal imaging cameras. Further partnerships planned with small businesses for end of 2026
- Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme - CPCA funding aiming to help rural communities to reduce their carbon footprint. 11 projects successfully completed reducing carbon emissions, energy bills and bringing communitites together
- 7 community chest applications were aimed at 'lowering carbon emissions'

2025-2026

Appendix 2

CLIMATE ACTION UNDERTAKEN CATEGORISED BY CLIMATE STRATEGY THEME

BUILDINGS

- All HDC One Leisure sites now have solar power
- Feasibility study underway to assess solar capabilities on the roof of Pathfinder House
- One Leisure St Ives solar canopy live from April 2025 generating over £35,000 in cost savings
- Building Energy Strategy completed in October 2025 and is now live on HDC's website
- Endotherm chemical being trialled - aims to reduce time taken to heat water in radiators

ENERGY & RENEWABLES

- Total of 41 ECO 4 FLEX applications submitted
- Currently into Year 2 of Warm Homes Upgrade Grant (WHUG) scheme being managed across the Climate and Resident Advice teams
- As part of CERP, partnered on producinf a retrofit guide, led by South Cambs DC and funded by the CPCA
- Finalisation of the locally determined contributions project, funded by Innovate UK

NATURE

- Green Flag Awards: HDC received 4 awards for their parks in St Neots and Huntingdon
- Community chest grants awarded included providing a green space for wellbeing and providing community allotment compost bins
- 1 Huntingdonshire Futures grant awarded for funding environmental innovation
- Habitat banking work has begun to support biodiversity net gain across the District
- 13 leaky dams installed as part of the NFD project

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

- HVO fuel now in all standard diesel vehicles across the HDC fleet, which has so far saved 960 tonnes of CO2.
- Partnerships continue with the police and fire service

WASTE, RECYCLING & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- 20 tonnes of WEEE collected
- Continuation of nappy recycling and Mooncup schemes
- HDC provided equipment and collection services for 200 community litter picks
- 4,000 tonnes of CO2 estimated to be saved from food waste

COMMUNITY

- Continued partnership with Cambridgeshire Carbon Footprint providing training and use of thermal imaging cameras for residents and businesses
- Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme - CPCA funding aiming to help rural communities to reduce their carbon footprint - 11 successfully completed projects
- 3rd annual climate conversation attended by 150+ people
- Soft launch of Council tax e-billing with 1,100 bills delivered electronically

2025-2026

Appendix 3

Buildings

Facilities

The Facilities team have initiated several projects throughout 2025-26 as set out in the Climate Strategy. The Building Energy Strategy was completed back in October and can be accessed on the HDC website here. The strategy outlines the steps HDC needs to take to reach its net zero target by 2040. The strategy relates to corporate buildings. The next step is to pursue feasibility studies on additional properties within HDC's estate.

Between April 2025 and June 2025, the One Leisure sites had their roof mounted solar panels installed. The figures below are a comparison of 2024 to 2025 electricity consumption

Site	Electricity Saving	Cost Saving	Daytime kw costing*
One Leisure St Ives	177,319kW	£35,917	20.25p/kW
One Leisure Ramsey	65,970kW	£14,274	21.63p/kW
One Leisure St Neots	117,829kW	£25,283	21.45p/kW
One Leisure Huntingdon	24,326kW	£5,368	22.06p/kW
One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	24,046kW	£6,136	25.52p/kW

*These figures are solely on daytime kW and each kW costing as specified above per site

The Council also made a capital investment for Pathfinder House to have roof mounted solar installed. A business case is currently being developed to establish payback periods, generation forecasts and long-term operational savings.

The Facilities team held a meeting with the NHS in 2025 with regards to a product called Endotherm. This is a substance that is added to closed water systems allowing the system to reach temperature more quickly. This results in less energy required to heat the system, which will give HDC estate sites a financial saving. Across all the sites, Endotherm is expected to recover costs in 18.5 months and continue generating savings for approximately 10 years. Paybacks vary due to size of systems and volume of water in the system. Further information will be available in the next annual climate report.

All HDC's electricity has been on a green tariff since October 2024. This includes all corporate sites, bus stations and One Leisure sites. A list of these can be found in **Appendix 4.**

Reduce energy use, shift to Renewables

Home Energy

Home Energy work continues through the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP). Consisting of all authorities in Cambridgeshire, CERP has run various energy schemes through its 'Action on Energy Cambridgeshire' network.

Scheme		**Status**	**Huntingdonshire Home Retrofits Funded in 2025-26**
Energy Company Obligations FLEX	ECO FLEX	Open	41
Home Upgrade Grant 2	HUG2	Closed	24
Warm Homes Upgrade Grant	WHUG	Open	14 (completed in Year 1)

HDC's Home Energy work has taken advantage of the ECO scheme, which is funded by energy suppliers. The ECO FLEX fund allows local authorities to refer residents to retrofit funding grants. This is specifically for private-tenure households that might be living in fuel poverty, on low incomes or are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold house, but do not receive benefits required to quality for existing ECO funding schemes.

The HUG2 (Home Upgrade Grant) scheme provided energy efficient upgrades and lower-cost and more energy efficient heating systems to low-income households living in off-gas homes in England. The HUG2 scheme has now closed and has been replaced with the Warm Homes Upgrade Grant (WHUG) scheme.

Under WHUG, depending on eligibility, free energy saving improvements can be made to homes and is only available in England. The programme is now in its 2nd year, having been launched in the last financial year. This 3-year programme received £8.5 million worth of funding to retrofit properties across Cambridgeshire as a whole, which was less than initially bid for. A further request for an additional £2 million of funding is currently pending.

Through the WHUG scheme, Huntingdonshire homes have added cavity wall insulation, solar PV, PV batteries, air source heat pumps and digital/smart controls.

Local Area Energy Plan

The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) aims to define the extent of future electricity network requirements needed to support housing growth, business investment and increasing energy demand. The partners in the production of the Cambridgeshire LAEP were:

- Cambridgeshire County Council (Lead Partner),
- the Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (CPCA)

- Cambridge City Council,
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council,
- HDC

HDC's participation has ensured that Huntingdonshire remains part of the solution - leading the way in planning for the future and tackling Climate Change. The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) went out to tender and CAG Consulting were chosen to conduct stakeholder engagement and Mott Macdonald was the preferred supplier to create the actual plan.

For Huntingdonshire, the LAEP sets out a strategic, evidence-based roadmap to transition the district to a low carbon, resilient energy system by 2045. By developing this in partnership with other Cambridgeshire authorities, it ensured Huntingdonshire was contributing to actively shaping and **enabling** the region's response to climate change, while supporting sustainable growth.

Thee LAEP confirmed that improving energy affordability and strengthening long-term energy security will require a whole-system transformation, spanning how energy is generated, distributed and consumed across homes, businesses and transport. It identified the scale of change, infrastructure requirements and investment priorities needed to deliver this transition in a coordinated and locally responsive way. A link to the final report, 'Huntingdonshire Local Area Report (Version C)', is provided in Section 15.1 of the main report.

LAEP Progress and emerging challenges

Existing grid constraints risk delaying development and business investment unless capacity issues are addressed. Huntingdonshire as a District has already achieved a 38% reduction in emissions since 2005, reflecting national grid decarbonisation and local efficiency improvements. However, future progress will be more complex. Emissions are now dominated by transport and domestic energy use, highlighting the need for **place-based** interventions that directly affect how people travel and heat their homes.

Scale of transformation required

The LAEP highlights the significant scale of change needed across all sectors:

- Heat decarbonisation is the greatest challenge, with 91% of homes still reliant on fossil fuels and substantial investment required in heat pumps and low carbon systems.
- Energy efficiency remains critical, with around 47% of homes below EPC C, requiring large-scale retrofit to reduce emissions and tackle fuel poverty.
- Electricity demand is expected to at least double by 2045, driven by electrification of heat and transport.
- Transport will require rapid electrification, including a major expansion of EV charging infrastructure.

This reinforces that achieving net zero will require system-wide change at pace, rather than incremental improvements.

Infrastructure and investment priorities

A key message of the LAEP is the need for proactive, forward-looking infrastructure planning:

- Existing grid capacity constraints risk limiting growth and decarbonisation unless addressed early
- Close coordination with network operators will be essential to ensure timely investment in electricity networks
- Huntingdonshire has strong potential to contribute to renewable energy generation, particularly through solar and wind

This supports the principle that infrastructure must be planned ahead of demand to enable sustainable growth.

Place-based delivery

The LAEP emphasises a targeted, locally tailored approach:

- Focused retrofit activity is needed in areas with lower EPC ratings and higher fuel poverty, including parts of Ramsey and Elton.
- Heat networks and shared energy solutions may be viable in higher density urban areas such as Huntingdon and St Neots.
- Industrial areas present opportunities for low carbon transition and future energy innovation.

This reflects that delivery must respond to local characteristics, infrastructure and community need.

Wider benefits

The LAEP reinforces that the transition to net zero is also an opportunity to:

- Reduce fuel poverty and energy costs
- Improve health and air quality
- Support green economic growth and jobs
- Deliver a fair and inclusive transition for communities

<u>Locally Determined Contributions (previously known as CANFFUND)</u>

The locally determined contributions (LDC) project puts local decision-making at the heart of climate action. Building on the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it enables councils to set their own realistic carbon reduction targets while aligning with national ambitions. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, LDCs provide a practical framework that allows local areas to decide what works best for their communities, with transparent reporting that improves accountability and tracks progress.

Delivered between February 2024 and July 2025 through a partnership of Cambridgeshire councils, the University of Cambridge, Collaborate CIC and funded by Innovate UK, the project developed and tested a toolkit for place-based climate action. Co-designed with almost 200 representatives from local

government, business, academia and community organisations, it provides a consistent method for planning emissions reductions, improving resilience, identifying wider benefits such as better health and reduced inequality, and giving investors greater confidence that local projects can deliver measurable outcomes.

The project has positioned Cambridgeshire as a leader in a practical, scalable approach that bridges the gap between national targets and local delivery. It offers a clear framework that any future unitary councils in Cambridgeshire could adopt, strengthens governance and transparency, and ensures climate action is driven by local priorities while making the best use of public and private investment.

Nature - Increase Biodiversity and Natural Capital

Biodiversity and Green Skills Programmes

The Biodiversity for All (Bio4All) programme concluded in October 2025, delivering a diverse range of initiatives to enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience and better connect communities with nature across Huntingdonshire.

Over the course of the programme, more than 1,387 trees and shrubs were planted across Council-owned sites, improving habitat connectivity, increasing carbon sequestration and contributing to a more resilient landscape. In addition, over 856 square metres of wildflower habitat were created and enhanced, providing important forage for pollinators and boosting the diversity of plant species within parks and open spaces.

Significant work was undertaken to improve aquatic and wetland habitats through the restoration and creation of ponds at multiple locations. These interventions support amphibians, invertebrates and other wetland species, while also contributing to natural water management. New hedgerow planting and enhancement further strengthened ecological networks, offering shelter and nesting opportunities for wildlife while enhancing the character of the local landscape.

The programme also delivered community-focused initiatives, including the establishment of new community orchards such as a cherry orchard, which increased opportunities for local food production, biodiversity and community engagement. Green Skills programmes were delivered across 10 sites, enabling residents and volunteers to develop practical conservation and habitat management skills. In total, 37 volunteers were supported to gain qualifications and hands-on experience, helping to build local capacity for environmental stewardship and contributing to the growth of the green economy.

Bio4All secured an additional £50,000 from the Biodiversity Audit Grant programme (funded by the CPCA) to better understand and enhance the biodiversity value of Council landholdings in St Ives. Natural flood management

measures were implemented, including the installation of 13 leaky dams at Fox Brook in St Neots, helping to slow water flow and improve resilience to flooding.

Across two funding rounds, the programme also supported 17 community-led biodiversity projects. Overall, Bio4All has created a lasting legacy by improving habitats, increasing biodiversity, empowering communities to take positive environmental action and laying strong foundations for future nature recovery and **helping create a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.**

Habitat Banking and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

During 2025/26, Huntingdonshire District Council made significant progress in establishing an in-house habitat banking programme to support the delivery of BNG across the District. Following the introduction of mandatory BNG requirements under the Environment Act 2021, the Council identified an opportunity to make more effective use of its landholdings by delivering measurable biodiversity enhancements while generating income to support long-term habitat management and broader environmental priorities.

Initial work centred on exploring opportunities for natural carbon sequestration and Biodiversity improvements across Council-owned land. This work developed into a more strategic Habitat Banking approach, recognising the wider benefits of habitat creation, including biodiversity recovery, climate adaptation, natural flood management and carbon storage.

Over the reporting period, the Council identified and assessed a number of suitable sites for Habitat Banking and BNG delivery. Phase 1 activity was completed, including ecological assessments and the preparation of Habitat Management and Monitoring Plans (HMMPs) for initial pilot sites at Huntingdon Riverside Park, St Neots Riverside Park and Barford Road Pocket Park. Alongside this, a Biodiversity Net Gain implementation plan was submitted, establishing the framework for delivering BNG units from Council land.

An in-house operating model was also developed, allowing the Council to retain greater control over habitat delivery, long-term stewardship and the financial returns associated with BNG units. Building on this progress, Phase 2 proposals have been advanced, identifying additional sites across the district with the potential to generate biodiversity units and support local nature recovery priorities.

The Habitat Banking programme represents an innovative and strategic approach to environmental management in Huntingdonshire. By creating and managing habitats that deliver measurable biodiversity gains, the Council is supporting sustainable development while generating long-term environmental, social and financial benefits. The programme remains in development, with further ecological assessments, legal arrangements and habitat creation works planned to enable the registration and future sale of BNG units.

.A link is provided in Section 15.1 of the main report.

Grant Schemes: Huntingdonshire Futures and Community Chest

Community Chest

The community chest scheme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to help HDC achieve the following priorities set out in our Corporate Plan:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

During 2025/26, there were 7 grants awarded under the 'lowering carbon emissions' priority:

Place	Project Description	Amount
Spaldwick Community Allotment Association	Community Allotment Compost Bins	£1,000
Great Staughton Playing Field Committee	Battery Storage Provision	£2,000
CARESCO Centre	Guttering and Corridor heater	£560
The Community Hub Little Paxton CIO	Install PV system	£1,000
Citizen Hub St Neots CIC	Green Space for Wellbeing	£1,500
Hilton Community Garden	Polytunnel refurbishment	£1,000
Houghton and Wyton Timebank	Playing field green area planting	£500

Huntingdonshire Futures

The Huntingdonshire Futures grant scheme was run in a similar way to the Community Chest but aligns with the key journeys set out in the Pride of Place strategy. Applicants were able to request grant funding providing it helped improvements through at least 1 of the 5 journeys:

1. Pride in Place
2. Inclusive Economy
3. Health Embedded
4. Environmental Innovation
5. Travel Transformed

There were a total of 19 grants issued, one of which encompassed the 'Environmental Innovation' journey as well as 'Place.' The Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) was awarded £2,500. GOVT set out to encourage people from all backgrounds, who might not otherwise be aware of the landscape on their doorstep, to experience what Huntingdonshire has to offer and to improve physical and mental health.

Previous Huntingdonshire Futures grants, awarded before 2025-26, included a green weekend for crafts and workshops at Godmanchester Plant Nursery, a 1-day event to inspire connection with nature in Huntingdon and funding for planting of hedging and a wildflower meadow in Alconbury.

Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award scheme was launched in 1996 and is managed by the charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. It recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. 2,250 parks across the UK were named, which was the highest number ever recorded.

HDC once again received awards for 4 parks: Hinchingbrooke Country Park (Huntingdon), Paxton Pits, Priory Park and Riverside Park & Regatta Meadow (all in St Neots). To have these awards recognises the vital role these parks and celebrating spaces that are cared for and are accessible and rich in natural value.

Travel and Transport - Decarbonising our Fleet

HVO Fleet Trial and subsequent adoption

HDC declared a climate emergency in 2023. As part of the Climate Strategy, research showed that CO_2 emitted from HDC's fleet contributed to 36.7% of HDC's total greenhouse gas emissions. A pilot project was agreed on in November 2023 through to June 2024 to use hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to standard road diesel in a controlled group of vehicles, plants and machinery.

Calculations for the reduced emissions of using this fuel have been calculated at an 82% reduction. All vehicles which ran on standard diesel fuel were switched over to HVO in June 2025 (2.5 months into the financial year). 960 tonnes of CO_2 have been saved, which is a 74% in reduction YoY. A full year's figure concerning total carbon savings from HVO will be able to be given next financial year.

557,000 litres of HVO was purchased for the 2025-26 financial year. This cost £1.34 per litre, 35p lower than the current market price (last checked in July 2026) which demonstrates a significant cost saving.

The initial trial involved a partnership with HDC, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue and Cambridgeshire Constabulary and they are continuing to use the HVO stored at HDC's depot. They have procured 8,978 litres 4,971 litres respectively for a selection of their vehicles

Tree Planting

Between April 2025 and March 2026, 2,249 trees were planted across the District. These continue to enhance Biodiversity, restore woodland and create wildlife-friendly hedgerows using native species including hawthorn, holly and hazel. Each location supports a different function from rejuvenating degraded

woodlands to forming pollinator-rich, climate-resilient hedges along roadsides and rivers. The mix of evergreen and deciduous species offers year-round habitat and food for birds, insects, and mammals, while improving air quality, soil health, and carbon storage. The trees were planted in the following locations:

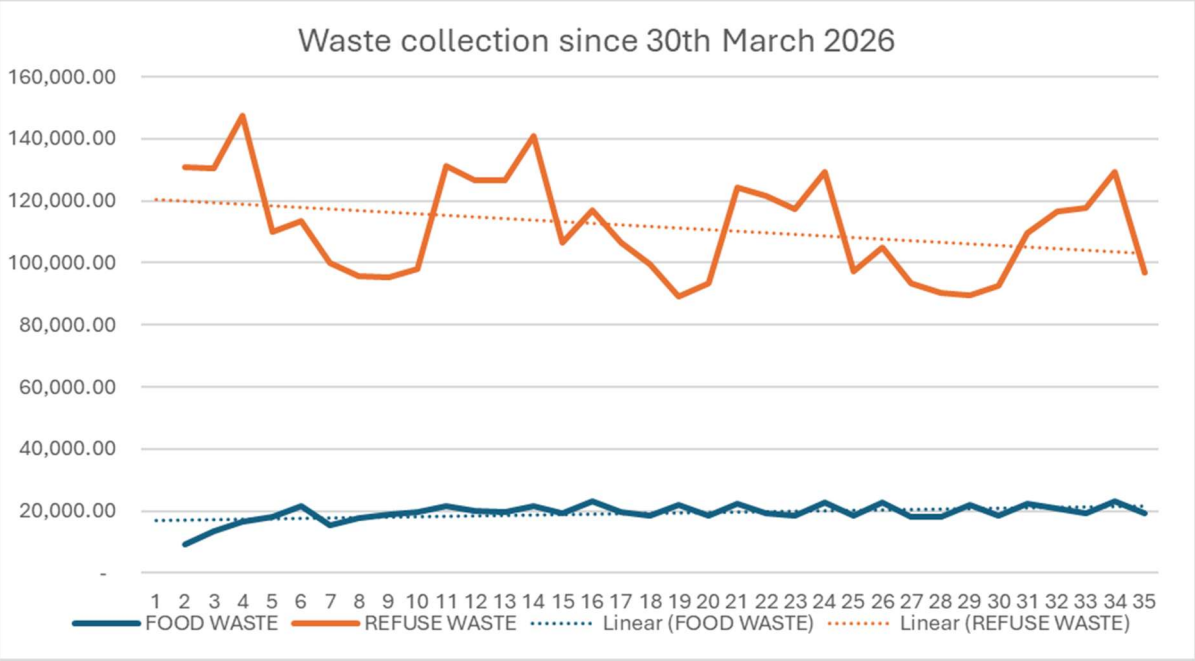
Location	Tree Species	Quantity
St Ives Green Corridor	Field maples Scotts Pine Silver Birch Cherry Trees	26 10 13 3
Orchard creation - Brampton	Bramley James Grieve Cornice Pear	2 2 2
Donation – Buckden town	Hawthorn Hornbeam Holly Blackthorn Hazel Birch Mountain Ash Viburnum latana Viburnum opulus Ribes sanguineum	250 5 50 100 50 2 1 2 2 2
Fence to hedges – various projects across Huntingdonshire	Beech Hawthorn Holly	300 200 400
Sawtry Tree Donation	Mixed hedge species	827

Waste, Recycling and Resource Management

Over the last financial year, the waste minimisation team has delivered and supported on a wide range of waste reduction and sustainability initiatives, with the lead achievement being the launch of Huntingdonshire's new weekly food waste collection service.

This new statutory food waste service went live in the week commencing 30th March 2026 meeting the Simpler Recycling requirements. As it stands, HDC is currently collecting about 20 tonnes of food waste per day.

Graph 1: Waste Collection since 30th March 2026



Drawing on the capability, opportunity and motivation (COM-B) behaviour change model, HDC has been testing 3 different communication materials specifically for food waste in order to ascertain which method is most impactful for further deployment. The Council is also doing the same for recycling: targeted communications were informed by waste analysis that identified how and where contamination occurs. An example of this is retired residents being more likely to contaminate with plastics, enabling low-cost, focussed interventions to try and prevent this.

Collection services and non-statutory provision remained strong. Textile and Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste banks were increased – textile banks in 6 new locations and WEEE in 3 new locations – with 20 tonnes of WEEE collected over the year. Textile collections continue to rise and more information will be made available in further waste buster meetings, dates of which can be accessed on the HDC website.

The waste minimisation team continued to support approximately 200 community groups with litter-picking equipment and collections and continued to offer the reusable nappy scheme and discounted reusable menstrual cups via the £5 Mooncup partnership. Home composting was encouraged through discounted compost bins (£10 plus delivery via GetComposting) and free fortified earth for residents.

Social media presence has grown by 17.84% from 4,691 members of the 'Huntingdonshire Recycles' Facebook group in 2024-25 up to 5,528 in 2025-2026. Estimated tonnes of CO_2e avoided via food waste is approximately 15 tonnes of CO_2 per day, an estimation of nearly 4,000 tonnes of CO_2 per year. This is the equivalent of 70,000 miles of train travel.

Progress has been made in reviewing technology and alternative approaches to reduce emissions in street cleansing, including exploring a potential partnership

with TerraSort. Efforts to improve household waste outcomes show that, as of March 2026, 25% of domestic waste is recycled, 22% composted, and 53% landfilled, which highlighted ongoing challenges in diversion from landfill. To address this, a wide range of communications have been delivered to residents including leaflets, letters, targeted stickers, and a forthcoming video campaign with CookieCutMedia. This will aim to improve awareness, particularly around correct use of food waste caddies.

Engagement with the community and key stakeholders has increased through school outreach and attendance at local events, including parish council meetings, with participation averaging 88 residents per month since monitoring began in 2026. Looking ahead, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is expected to reduce plastic waste generation, while recycling performance is anticipated to remain stable due to continued high levels of home deliveries and strong use of the blue bin service. Work is also ongoing with property managers to expand and improve recycling provision in communal areas, supporting broader access to recycling services.

Community

Community Engagement – Cambridge Carbon Footprint partnership

HDC partnered with Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) in 2025-2026 loaning 2 thermal cameras to residents in Warboys and Great Paxton. A case study was written for Warboys, which was produced in July 2025.

Thermal imaging cameras are used to find locations of heat loss in a building. Once the leak is found, improved insulation and drought excluders can significantly reduce heat loss and cut utility bills.

56 Huntingdonshire residents attended training and 43 of them borrowed a camera. Following this success, Great Paxton and Warboys continued the thermal camera loan scheme during the winter of 2025-26.

A further partnership between CCF and HDC has developed within HDC's economic development team. In Winter 2026, 4 events will be held in St Ives, St Neots, Alconbury Weald and Ramsey for local businesses to learn how to use the thermal cameras and borrow them if they wish. The aim of this is to **enable** and support businesses to explore ways in which HDC can support them to have less climate impact.

Procuring Wisely

HDC is in the process of developing an approach on how the Council uses its procurement processes to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and the Procurement Act 2023. This will seek to embed a stronger focus on maximising public benefit, requiring contracts to consider outcomes such as local employment, carbon reduction, sustainable practices and community impact.

A key element is intended to be the integration of environmental considerations into procurement decisions, including reducing carbon emissions, promoting sustainable supply chains and supporting climate resilience. Social value is applied proportionately across all procurement activity, from encouraging local suppliers and small businesses in lower-value contracts to setting clear social value objectives and performance measures for higher-value contracts.

The Council aims to adopt an in-house framework to guide delivery, requiring suppliers to demonstrate how they will contribute to social value outcomes. These may include measurable environmental benefits such as emissions reductions, alongside broader community and economic impacts. Performance is intended to be monitored through key indicators and reporting mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability.

Overall, this work will support the Council's climate and sustainability ambitions by using procurement as a strategic tool to reduce environmental impact, support local green economies and deliver long-term social and environmental value for communities. Part of the basis of developing this framework has been from the training received from Anglia Ruskin University which has helped in understanding UK policies, regulations and global best practices in sustainable and circular procurement. Using the information provided in these lectures has **enabled** the development of this policy.

Council Tax E-Billing

In February 2026, the Revenues Team introduced Council Tax e-billing through a soft launch. The initiative enabled residents to sign up to receive their Council Tax bills electronically via email and manage their accounts through an online self-service portal. The scheme saw strong early adoption, with more than 1,100 bills successfully delivered electronically within the first six weeks of launch.

E-billing provides a range of benefits for both residents and the Council. Residents receive their bills instantly, can access account information online at any time, and are less likely to misplace important documents. For the Council, e-billing reduces printing and postage costs, supports environmental sustainability by reducing paper consumption, and improves the efficiency of bill delivery and customer communications. Increased digital engagement also helps customers self-serve, reducing demand on telephone and face-to-face services.

The Revenues Service has introduced a Council Tax text message reminder service as an early intervention measure to encourage timely payments and reduce the need for statutory recovery action. Alongside the rollout of e-billing, these digital initiatives have improved the customer experience, increased

operational efficiency, and generated savings through reduced printing and postage costs. The reduction in paper correspondence also supports the Council's environmental objectives. As part of the Council's Climate Action Plan, work is underway to quantify the carbon savings associated with the shift to e-billing. While a definitive carbon saving figure is not currently available, further analysis during the next financial year will provide an estimated assessment of the environmental benefits delivered through these digital service improvements.

Food for Nought

Food for Nought continued to deliver significant social, environmental and community value across Huntingdonshire during 2025/26. The volunteer-led community fridge network redistributed over 7 tonnes of surplus food, equating to approximately 13,600 meals and an estimated value of £17,900, while supporting more than 4,500 resident interactions. The initiative also contributed to environmental sustainability by preventing an estimated 14,330 kg of CO_2e emissions.

Operating from two locations, Oxmoor (Huntingdon) and Yaxley, the network provides accessible, stigma-free food support within local communities. Beyond food provision, community fridge sessions act as trusted spaces that foster social connection, reduce isolation and enable informal access to wider support and advice services.

The project plays an important role in supporting financial resilience by helping households manage living costs, while also contributing to prevention and early intervention through open-access, community-based support. Delivery is underpinned by strong volunteer involvement and partnership working, strengthening local capacity and community ownership **improving the quality of life for local people.**

Food for Nought aligns closely with the Council’s priorities and the emerging Crisis Resilience Fund, demonstrating how low-cost, community-led initiatives can provide effective early support while reducing pressure on more intensive services. There are opportunities to further strengthen the model through improved data consistency, expanded partnerships and enhanced links to advice and wellbeing services.

Overall, the programme highlights the value of community-led approaches in addressing food insecurity, reducing waste and building long-term resilience across Huntingdonshire.

Appendix 4

HDC sites that are on a green energy tariff

Site Name	Site Name	Site Name
One Leisure Huntingdon	Tebbutts Road Car Park	St Neots Mobile Home Park
One Leisure St Ives	Trinity Place Car Park	St Benedict's Court Water Feature
One Leisure St Neots	Cross Hall Road Car Park	
One Leisure Ramsey	Feeder Pillar – Market Square	
Pathfinder House	Hill Rise Park	
Eastfield House	Hinchingbrooke Countryside Centre	
Brook Street Car Park	Hinchingbrooke Visitors Centre	
Buttsgrove Way Car Park	Huntingdon Bus Station	
Cattle Market Car Park	St Ives Enterprise Centre	
Great Northern Street Car Park	Haweswater Cycleway Lighting	
Ingram Street Car Park	Mayfield Road Lighting	
Mayfield Road Car Park	Wertheim Way Cycleway	
Mill Common Car Park	Little Paxton Education Centre	
Multi Storey Car Park	Little Paxton Visitors Centre	
Swallow Bush Car Park	St Ives Market Hill	
Princes Street Car Park	St Neots Market Square	
Priory Lane Car Park	Priory Park Pavilion	
Riverside (Huntingdon) Car Park	Sapley Park Pavilion	
Riverside (St Neots) Car Park	Hartford Road Pavilion	
Tan Yard Car Park	St Ives Sheep Market	

Appendix 5

Carbon reduction actions in the latest Corporate Plan 2023-2028

DO	Action	Progress
42	Maximise opportunities to expand the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) fuel where there is social, environmental or financial justification to do so.	Continually ongoing
43	Maximise decarbonisation of our fleet where there is a social, environmental or financial justification through our fleet strategy	Continually ongoing
44	Minimise use of fossil fuels for energy where there is a social, environmental or financial case	Continually ongoing
45	Showcase and encourage community action to lower carbon emissions	Continually ongoing
46	Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact	Currently ongoing
47	Delivery of Climate Awareness Training across the Council	Completed
48	Maximise use of roof top solar on the Council's operational buildings (PROJECT)	Currently ongoing
49	Improve household recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reducing food waste through implementation of household food waste collections (PROJECT)	Currently ongoing

Enable	Action	Progress
50	Support community projects that reduce carbon emissions. Net Zero Villages (PROJECT).	Completed
51	Enabling community action and engagement to achieve greater biodiversity. Biodiversityt4All extension to pilot urbane nature corridors and natural flood prevention (PROJECT)	Completed

Influence	Action	Progress
52	Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value	Currently ongoing
53	Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge.	Currently ongoing

Appendix 6

Climate Action Plan

Issued June 2025

Actions

Priority	Action	Theme	Portfolio	Target Completion Date
Medium	Explore options for offsetting emissions (natural carbon capture)	Biodiversity	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2026
Low	Deliver programme of biodiversity gain with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to include Community and Council Open Spaces	Biodiversity	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2026
Low	Support delivery of the Great Fen	Biodiversity and Planning	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	2027 onwards
Medium	Include climate considerations within all key strategies and governance documents	Business Transformation and PMO	Policy, Performance and Emergency Planning	31/03/2026
Medium	Undertake annual review of the completion and progress of service plan actions that deliver net zero carbon by 2040	Business Transformation and PMO	Policy, Performance and Emergency Planning	31/03/2026
Medium	Research into alternative power sources (solar) for CCTV cameras	CCTV	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2026
Low	Understand sources and availability of data for scope 3 reporting	Climate	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2026
Low	Agree scope 3 emissions approach and included emissions sources for reporting	Climate	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2026
Low	Enabling Communities to deliver climate change activities through Community Action Plans	Communities	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2026
Low	Support and participate in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Climate Change Commission and Action Plan delivery	CPCA	Climate, Transformation and Workforce	31/03/2027
Low	Work with partners and responsible transport authorities to promote active, net zero carbon travel	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards

Actions

Low	Continue to engage with local businesses to explore ways the council could support them to reduce waste, recycle more	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2026
Low	Engage with local businesses to explore ways the council could support them to have less climate impact	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2026
Low	Support capital grant development (where government grant funding becomes available) to encourage businesses to lead in green credentials	Economic Development	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Identify actions to increase resilience to disruption to Council services from extreme weather	Emergency Planning	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Reduce the carbon emissions of the Council's commercial estate	Estates	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Promote high quality design in the Council's commercial estate that incorporates net gain to biodiversity	Estates	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
Low	Use EPC ratings to monitor our own Commercial estates	Estates	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	2027 onwards
High	Develop plan for the Council to use 100% renewable energy	Facilities	Property and Facilities	31/03/2026
Medium	Develop an Energy Strategy	Facilities	Property and Facilities	31/03/2026
Medium	Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include them in reporting	ICT	ICT Management	31/03/2026
Low	Enhance environmental aspects of the Local Plan where possible to do so	Planning	Planning	2027 onwards
Medium	Provide housing association landlords with information/advice on energy saving to support their tenants	Regeneration and Housing	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2027

Actions	Medium	Engage with key registered providers of housing, to give tenants information that encourages them to reduce their carbon emissions	Regeneration and Housing	Economy, Regeneration and Housing	31/03/2027
	Medium	Quantify carbon savings from the Council's shift to E-billing	Revenues and Benefits	Customer Change	31/03/2027
	Medium	Review technology and alternative ways of working to plan emissions reduction in Street Cleansing	Street Cleansing	Leisure, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Reduce waste collected from households through kerbside collections	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Improve information, knowledge and advice to increase the recycling rate of municipal waste and reduce the amount of our waste that goes to landfill	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Increase understanding and engagement in waste and recycling for local community and key stakeholders	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Increase our measured household recycling rate	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027
	Medium	Increase our recycling service for communal areas	Waste Minimisation	Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene	31/03/2027