

Transport

Key:

Current Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
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- Completed (work has been finished)

RAG rating

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project stage	RAG	December 2023 Update
Policy and Strategy											
T1	All	Develop a vision and strategy for decarbonised transport for Leicestershire in the new Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4).	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	M	M	18	Design		The Council is developing Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), gathering evidence and planning initial engagement. Carbon savings are now classified as medium, recognising the county's rural nature and challenges reducing car use, especially given the Government's current emphasis on road travel and limited support for electric vehicles.
T2	All	Continue to engage with the public and stakeholders to get a better understanding of their needs and aspirations for travel improvements and infrastructure opportunities.	Lead	Transport Partners Business Residents	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Transport Strategy & Policy Team has ongoing dialogue with the public and stakeholders to help shape transport policy for Leicestershire.
T3	All	Work with others to investigate models and tools to quantify the carbon impact of policy decisions and scheme design.	Ask	Midlands Connect MHA	S / M	L	L	7.5	Design		The Transport Strategy & Policy Team has ongoing dialogue with partners such as Midlands Connect to support this action.
T4	All	Identify opportunities for research into clean transport technology and local demonstration projects.	Ask	Universities Enterprise Zones LLEP Midlands Connect	M/L	H	H	4.5	Design		EMA's partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP), Freeport, Midlands Net Zero Hub, and Midlands Connect is advancing, with identification of various projects.
T5	All	Support planning policies for development that reduce the need to travel for essential services and promote walking, cycling and public transport.	Ask	Districts	M	L	H	18	Delivery		The Council reviews new development plans and provides travel packs with information on walking, cycling and car sharing to new residents/employees, aligning with planning obligations.
T6	All	Revise the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide to incorporate environmental and net zero carbon consideration .	Lead	Developers Districts	M	L	M	12	Design		Material pallets are being developed that integrate environmental, sustainability and carbon criteria. The delivery approach for green infrastructure in the Leicester Highway Design Guide is also being reviewed.
T7	All	National government policy and long term funding allocations to support the delivery of capital schemes and promotional activity to decarbonise transport and to clarify its role.	Influence	Leicester City LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands ADEPT	S	L	H	27	Delivery		Initiatives in progress for both design and delivery.
Active travel and reducing mileage											

T8	1, 2	Implement the actions identified in the Cycling and Walking Strategy, in line with national policy and funding, to enable Leicestershire to become a county where walking and cycling are safe, accessible and obvious choices for short journeys and a natural part of longer journeys.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Developers Public transport providers	S	H	H	9	Delivery		Initiatives in progress for both design and delivery, contingent on funding. The Cycling and Walking Strategy action plan update can be found here: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/transport-policy-plans-and-studies
T9	1, 2	Identify and build key walking and cycling infrastructure in line with national policy and funding	Lead	Districts	S	H	M	6	Design		Initiatives in progress where possible, however, contingent on funding.
T10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Continue to deliver sustainable travel planning advice and support to businesses and residents through the Choose How You Move campaign.	Lead	Business Districts Health partners Residents Leicester City Schools	S	M	M	12	Delivery		The Council has been conducting behavioural change campaigns, with a branding refresh planned. The Schools Street campaign is active and encouraging low carbon methods of transport for the school run such as; walking and using scooters.
T11	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Work with local employers to encourage remote and flexible working to reduce the need for business travel and commuting.	Ask	Business Districts Health partners LLEP	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The Council has been working with partners to aid businesses in flexible working policies and offering alternative transport options such as e-bikes and bus vouchers.
T12	All	Work with partners to promote sustainable travel and transport choices with their staff, customers, suppliers, residents and service users.	Ask	All partners Business LLEP	M	M	M	8	Delivery		There is continuous collaboration with partners regarding sustainable transport through events, travel planning, and general promotion via social media and local advertising.
T13	2	Work with local employers to develop shared office space and work hubs.	Ask	Business Districts	M/L	H	M	3	Discovery		Initiatives in progress are expected to move forward in coming phases.
T14	3	Encourage businesses to educate drivers in fuel efficient driving and other fuel efficiency strategies such as route planning, vehicle maintenance etc.	Ask	LLEP Energy Saving Trust Business	M	M	M	8	Delivery		The Council aids journey planning through the 'Choose How You Move' website.
Public Transport											
T15	2, 4	Improve public transport through the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan for Leicestershire in line with national policy and funding.	Lead	Public Transport providers	S	H	M/H	7.5	Design		The Council has a target to ensure all buses used on the Leicestershire registered local bus network will meet Euro 6 standards by March 2025.
T16	2, 4	Trial modern IT enabled, dynamically routed Demand Responsive Transport service to improve passenger transport offer in rural communities, improving rural mobility	Lead	Residents Public Transport providers	M	H	M	4	Delivery		Fox Connect pilot for rural Leicestershire was launched October 2022 allowing citizens to book journeys via an app or call centre.
T17	2, 4	Subject to appropriate mitigation, facilitate new rail services and other rail improvements (e.g. electrification), including exploring schemes such as the Ivanhoe Line.	Ask	DfT Districts Neighbouring Authorities LLEP Midlands Connect Transport for East Midlands Great British Rail	M	H	H	6	MMLe - Delivery Ivanhoe - Design Network North - Discovery		The Council has actively supported Midland Main Line electrification for lower carbon trains. A business case for Ivanhoe Line Passenger services to provide further alternatives for car travel is also being developed. LCC working closely with partners such as Midlands Connect on rail schemes that are emerging following the recent Network North announcements.
Ultra Low Emission Vehicles											
T18	5	Develop a strategy for increasing the uptake of electric vehicles infrastructure.	Lead	Midlands Connect Business Residents Districts	S	M	H	18	Design		The Council is adopting an EV Strategy by late summer 2024, supported by Local Electronic Vehicle Infrastructure Funding (LEVI).

T19	5, 6	Work with others to plan for ultra low emission vehicles and alternative fuelling infrastructure at a regional level.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring authorities Districts	S/M	H	M	5	Discovery		The Council continues to deliver the LEVI funded projects to support electric vehicle use and infrastructure. Also supportive of the Midlands Connect work into alternative fuelling.
T20	5	Develop and adopt policy to support the uptake of electric vehicles and highway planning policy to promote the deployment of charging infrastructure.	Lead	Districts	S	L	M	18	Design		This work is in development as part of the Leicestershire Highways Design Guide and electric vehicle infrastructure strategy.
T21	5	Collect and collate information on demand for public charging in Leicestershire from residents.	Lead	Districts Residents Business	S	L	L	9	Delivery		This work is underway - a countywide electric vehicle survey was launched in October 2023.
T22	5	Deliver the LEVI funded charging infrastructure project, installing c. 100 on street charge points and seek opportunities to secure further LEVI funding to install further public charging points across the county.	Ask	Midlands Connect Neighbouring Authorities Districts Residents Business WPD	S	M	M	12	Delivery		There has been ongoing collaboration with Midlands Connect and Local Authorities to identify ChargePoint locations and procure operators as part of the LEVI project.
T23	5	Increase public charge point infrastructure at Leicestershire County Council sites e.g. country parks.	Lead	District Councils Energy Saving Trust	M	M	L	6	Discovery		Current fleet transition work will guide new charging point locations. The LEVI project will also support securing providers for charge point infrastructure.
T24	5	Deliver the FLEX-D project to develop a business case for charging hubs with solar canopy/battery storage and seek funding to implement.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	S	H	M	6	Delivery		A plan is in development to install an EV charging hub in each district. Tilton car club has been launched with plans for four more in development.
T25	5	Work with partners to consider options for joint procurement of low emission vehicles and refuelling infrastructure.	Ask	Districts Health partners Energy Saving Trust	M	H	H	9	Discovery		Fleet vehicles joint procurement project is in discovery. This aligns with waste management plans for new vehicles, but the timeline has been adjusted.
T26	5	National investment in the electricity supply network to reduce the cost of connections to the grid linked to electric vehicle charge point infrastructure.	Influence	WPD Ofgem ADEPT Districts	S	L	L	9	Delivery		LCC actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Future series ensuring county representation. Ofgem's creation of new Regional Energy Planning roles will support local energy planning, with the Distribution Network Operator covering upgrades from April 2023.
T27	5	Investigate opportunities to provide incentives for green number plate vehicles. (could this be merged with T18/T19)	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4	Discovery		Scheduled for further action at a later point.
T28	5	National framework for charge point suppliers to provide consistent, simple payment options and support interoperability across networks.	Influence	ADEPT Government Business - charge point operators	S	L	M	6	Design		The Government's October 2023 legislation guarantees transparent and comparable prices for consumers using charge points. A significant portion of new charge points will be contactless. It will also ensure providers open up their data so drivers can easily find an available chargepoint.
T29	5	Investigate and support opportunities to deploy EV car clubs in Leicestershire.	Ask	Districts Local councils VCSE Residents	S	H	M	6	Delivery		Tilton on the Hill Electric Car Club was launched in August 2023 with plans for 4 more in development. This initiative is being supported by local experts Green Fox Community Energy.

Freight

T30	6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of long-haul freight road mileage such as shift to rail freight.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	M/L	M	M/H	3	Discovery		LCC has supported Midlands Connect on rail and HGV alternative fuels. Carbon savings have been changed from medium to high as Leicestershire is a through route for much road freight, therefore transfer to rail/alternative fuels would create a big reduction in linked county emissions.
T31	5, 6	Investigate opportunities for low emission alternatives for freight and logistics.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP	M/L	M	L	3	Discovery		EMA's partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, Freeport, Midlands Net Zero Hub, and Midlands Connect is advancing, with identification of various projects
T32	5,6	Support national investment and policy to enable the transition of freight movements to low carbon alternatives with less impact on the environment, including through a new Freight Energy Forum.	Influence	LLEP Midlands Connect Midlands Net Zero Hub	S/M	L	H	22.5	Delivery		LCC persistently lobbies for better rail freight links post HS2 cancellation. The East Midlands Freeport focuses on airport projects including increasing rail freight capacity, and exploring East Midlands Airport decarbonisation. There is also ongoing investigations with regional partners into hydrogen use in HGVs.
T33	5, 6	Work with others in the H2GV project to develop a business case for use of Hydrogen in HGVs, apply for funding to pilot the project, disseminate knowledge and seek to develop local demand and supply chain.	Ask	H2GVMids project group	S/M	H	H	7.5	Discovery		HSGVMids funding bid was unsuccessful; there is potential for future development linked to two prior actions T31 and T32.
T34	1, 2, 5, 6	Investigate opportunities for reducing the impact of local delivery hubs and alternative 'last mile' delivery e.g. cargo bikes.	Ask	Local Councils District Councils Leicester City Council LLEP	M / L	M	L	3	Discovery		Potential pilot project being considered, lead partner yet to be identified.

Buildings and Energy

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Engagement											
B1	1, 2, 3	Provide information and materials to educate and engage residents in behaviour change, energy efficiency, low carbon sources of heating and renewable energy.	Lead	Low carbon industry Government Districts	S	L	M	18	Design		Leicestershire's Warm Home service is launching a Home Energy Retrofit Offer (HERO) project, funded by Midlands Net Zero Hub, to offer personalised energy and retrofit advice, targeting hard-to-reach individuals and properties, starting winter 2023-2024.
B2	1, 2, 3	Continue to provide information, advice and signposting to households at risk of Fuel Poverty through First Contact Plus and Warm Homes Teams.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	L	9	Delivery		The Warm Homes service continues its ongoing commitment, delivering projects that enhance energy efficiency locally. Over the past three years, projects like the £2.5m Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding, benefiting 250 households have been delivered. The ongoing £6m Home Upgrade Grant Funding aims to improve off-gas households EPC ratings by an average of 2 bands by March 2025. These efforts have significantly increased homes meeting or exceeding band C, rising from 29% in June 2019 to 53% in June 2023. The Warm Homes service is currently working to develop a county wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation funding (through to March 2026) and the Great British Insulation Scheme to low income households.
B3	2, 3, 6	Engage with commercial building owners to share best practice on building retrofit and low carbon solutions including energy storage and renewables.	Lead	Low carbon industry Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery		The County Council is advancing work on retrofitting its buildings with low-carbon solutions, building internal expertise in this area.
B4	1, 5	Continue to deliver and expedite smart metering programmes and introduce opportunities for new tariff structures which support flexible energy solutions.	Influence	DESNZ Energy Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery		In response to evolving Government positions, Leicestershire County Council remains proactive. In 2022 several energy providers faced fines for missing smart meter installation targets. The Government's objective is to achieve 80% smart meter coverage in homes by the end of 2025.
Retrofit											
B5	2, 3, 6	Apply for future funding to support building retrofit for homes and other buildings.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	L	H	18	Delivery		The Warm Homes Team secures funding, ensuring continued support for energy efficient initiatives - see actions B1 and B2 above.
B6	2, 3, 6	Improve and extend the funding programmes for clean heat and energy efficiency.	Influence	DESNZ	S	L	H	27	Discovery		The County Council remains responsive to Government changes, recently adapting to the gas boiler ban shift and plans to secure increased grants for air source heat pumps.

B7	2, 3, 6	Deliver the Sustainable Warmth programme for Leicestershire to increase the energy performance of homes across the county, reducing emissions and fuel poverty.	Lead	Districts Midlands Net Zero Hub	S	L	M	18	Completed		The Warm Homes Team has successfully delivered £2.5m of Sustainable Warmth Competition Funding to enhance energy efficiency in 250 households. Leveraging Better Care Fund support from district councils efficiently reduced spending risks and maximised the main grant's impact. The underspend from off-gas properties allocation facilitated additional delivery to on-gas properties. The Home Upgrade Grant now offers further support to non mains gas heated homes, utilising a mapping tool for targeted outreach in deprived areas and to households with low EPC ratings.
B8	2, 3, 6	Secure funding to deliver retrofit programmes to social housing, increasing the energy performance of homes across the county and reducing emissions.	Ask	Districts Social Housing Providers	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration has secured £6.6m for the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2, targeting non-mains-gas heated homes until March 2025.
B9	2	Promote ECO funding, including utilisation of LA Flex mechanism.	Ask	Districts	S	L	M	18	Design		The Warm Homes service aims to improve access to national funding through a county-wide Flexible Eligibility mechanism, widening access to National Energy Company Obligation funding and the Great British Insulation Scheme for low-income households, to be implemented from winter 2023/24.
B10	2	Enforce private rented and non-domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regulations.	Ask	Districts	S	M	M	12	Design		Continual progress is noted.
B11	3	Promote and encourage the uptake of government incentives for low carbon technologies including the Renewable Heat Incentive, Heat Pump Ready etc.	Lead	Government Residents Districts	S	L	M	18	Delivery		The Warm Homes service connects residents to various initiatives, offering advice on energy efficiency, grants and self-finance options. It is recognised that more could likely be done to directly engage households and this is the aim of the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator scheme which is in development (referenced in action B1). In addition, the service has launched a newsletter to provide updates on energy policy and initiatives supporting energy efficiency improvements.
B12	2, 3	Deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation of heat projects to a range of buildings including schools and education, health sector, public sector and business premises.	Ask	Districts LLEP Academies NHS	S/M/L	H	H	7.5	Discovery		District councils are developing plans for their buildings, focusing on energy efficiency measures. Work has not started in this area as yet, timeframes moved to M/L due to limited resources available at present.
B13	2, 3, 4, 6	Explore opportunities for the Invest in Leicestershire Programme to support net zero targets through retrofit, low carbon development, increased renewable energy generation and zero-carbon flagship development.	Lead		M	H	M	4	Discovery		To be progressed - medium term timeframes.
B14	2	Develop a new programme of business support for energy efficiency and carbon reduction to build on the success of Green Belle and Zellar pilot	Ask	Leicester City Council LLEP Growth Hub	S	M	H	18	Discovery		The Pathfinder places project (launching in February 2024) will build on existing initiatives, including an advisory service for businesses.
B15	2	Work collaboratively to deliver efficiencies or fuel switching to industrial processes	Ask	Businesses Universities	M / L	H	H	4.5	Discovery		To be progressed - changed action to long term. The East Midlands Hydrogen Group is exploring hydrogen technology for significant energy users with the potential for collaborative work across partner organisations.
B16	2, 3	Improve the understanding of energy efficiency in the housing stock in Leicestershire to support energy improvement.	Ask	Districts	S/M	M	L	6	Design		District councils await new Government information for the development of a housing stock condition survey tool, emphasising the importance of EPC data.
B17	2, 3, 4, 6	Provide support to develop retrofit and renewable energy supply chains and skills.	Influence	DESNZ	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		Regional funding was launched in December to support a 'net zero building retrofit skills' pilot programme. LCC's Economic Development Team are developing a questionnaire to go out to employers to investigate what they want in terms of retrofit skills.

Policy and Strategy											
B18	4, 6	Implement national planning policy and building standards that support net zero, including a high level of energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.	Influence	DLUHC	S / M	L	H	27	Design		The County Council continues to influence and seek alignment with national planning policy
B19	4, 6	Develop consistent local planning policies to support the net zero transition using an evidence-led approach to infrastructure, buildings and homes (including embodied carbon in new builds).	Ask	Districts Leicester City LLEP	S / M	M	H	15	Design		The County Council continues to seek to influence and coment on Local Plan policies as they progress
B20	4, 6	Develop a vision and key principles for green growth and sustainable development in Leicestershire. Work with partners and as the County Planning Authority to adopt and integrate the vision into policies to protect and enhance the environment and support net zero.	Lead	Districts Leicester City LLEP	S	M	L	6	Discovery		Initiatives are planned to be progressed through various teams, from influencing national planning policy to reviewing The Strategic Growth Plan.
B21	4, 6	Review and update the Strategic Growth Plan to ensure it supports the transition to net zero carbon.	Ask	Districts Leicester City LLEP	S/M	M/H	L/H	6	Discovery		Reviews to updates to The Strategic Growth Plan will involved discussions and agreements with all partners.
B22	2, 6	Explore opportunities for developer contributions to support net zero infrastructure and carbon reduction projects in the revision of the County Council Planning Obligations Policy.	Lead	Developers Districts	S	M	M	12	Discovery		District Councils guide developers to consider the envioenment in their developments including net-zero targets, carbon reduction and Biodiversity Net Gain. Leicestershire County Council's Planning Obligations Policy ensures comprehensive funds for sustainable, carbon neutral infrastructure, particularly new schools. This policy (which is under review) targets maximum utilisation of the bus pass/voucher scheme to promote mode shift.
B23	All	Investigate options for developing a Local Area Energy Plan including decarbonised heating and low carbon energy, working with key partners.	Lead	Districts Leicester City Public Sector Universities Business WPD	S	H	H	9	Design		The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support this initiative.
B24	3, 5, 6	Undertake research including heat mapping and identification of potential locations for energy projects, and secure funding to test innovative technologies to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Government Midlands Net Zero Hub	S / M	M	M	10	Design		The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
B25	3	Provide support with identifying potential locations for low carbon heat networks across the county.	Influence	HNDU	S / M	M	L	5	Design		The Pathfinder Places Project (launching in February 2024) will support local area energy planning.
B26	2, 3	Review the MNZH commissioned District Eating findings and consider oportunities for delivery in Leicestershire.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub	M	M	M	8	Design		A study launched by the Council explores links between waste heat and horticulture, with next steps currently being drafted.
B27	3	Explore opportunities and plan for Hydrogen Infrastructure.	Ask	Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP ERA	M / L	M	L	3	Discovery		Local hydrogen infrastrucure development is still in its infancy - further works needed to consider this at a regional level.
B28	All	Continue to support the Local Electricity Bill.	Influence	Parliament	S	L	L	9	Discovery		The Energy Act recently receieved Royal Ascent - LCC will review this and its influence on leicestershire's Net Zero targets.
B29	2, 3, 6	Provide an evidence base for new business models and financing options for low carbon technologies including Heat as a Service models.	Influence	DESNZ	S / M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		To be progressed
B30	All	Rebalance environmental levies between electricity and gas bills.	Influence	OFGEM	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
B31	All	Consider carbon pricing and its role in achieving net zero.	Influence	DESNZ OFGEM LGA	S / M	L	L	7.5	Design		Leicestershire County Council has integrated a carbon price into business cases and decisions for the 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme, aligning with Government figures.
B32	All	Deliver the Air Quality Partnership Action Plan to support carbon reduction	Ask	Air Quality Partnership National Highways	S	M	L	6	Design		The Air Quality Partnership is active - further work will be progressed to align its action plan to support carbon reduction.
Renewable Energy and Infrastructure											

B33	6	Work collaboratively to increase renewable energy generation and storage through innovative business models, sourcing of investment and technical solutions.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP Districts Investors Universities	S / M	H	H	7.5	Design		Leicestershire County Council's Solar Wind feasibility study advances to phase 2, examining three sites in detail for potential investment. This action will also be supported by the work of the Pathfinder Places project.
B34	6	Deliver the Solar Together Leicestershire group buying project to support householders to install solar photovoltaics and battery storage.	Ask	Districts i-Choosr	S	L	M	27	Delivery		Solar Together 2022 concludes with 460 installations, saving 7,385 tCO2e at prices 27% lower than typical market costs. Solar Together 2023-24 is underway through Green Living Leicestershire.
B35	2, 3, 6	Provide support for community energy including investment and business models.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub LLEP Government Investors	S / M	L	M	15	Design		Funding to support Community Energy establishment and development is included in the Pathfinder funding, commencing work from February 2024.
B36	5	Complete research to support investment in the electricity network in Leicestershire to deliver the capacity required for electrification of heat, transport and connection of generation assets.	Ask	NGED National Grid Ofgem	M / L	L	L	4.5	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the National Grid Electricity Futures series, ensuring county representation and contributing to future planning.
B37	5, 6	Promote and incentivise flexible energy and demand side management and facilitate increased energy storage capacity.	Ask	NGED National Grid Ofgem	L	L	M	6	Discovery		Octopus Energy offers saver sessions for customers to trial flexible energy use in the home. Battery Box has approached the County Council, requesting the use of their land for battery storage options, currently under consideration.
B38	5, 6	Create fair and consistent markets and regulatory frameworks for low carbon generation and storage	Influence	DESNZ OFGEM	M	L	H	18	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council commits to supporting consultation exercises for improved competition in renewables as they arise.

Business and Economy

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Policy and Strategy											
E1	1, 2, 3, 4	Deliver the Economic Growth Strategy and ensure economic plans and programmes support the net zero transition.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Universities Chamber	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) is actively implementing the Innovation strand, including initiatives like the Zellar platform offering 100 free licenses to businesses. Through this 114 tonnes of CO2e have been saved and £151k in energy costs.
E2	1, 2, 3	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Lead	LLEP	S	L	M	18	Design		The County Council has developed a Digital Strategy pending updated mapping of 'hot spots'. This strategy awaits political approval and an associated action plan.
E3	1, 2, 4	Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers low carbon goods and services.	Lead	Leicester City LLEP	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed
E4	1, 2, 3	Develop the Freeport around East Midlands Airport integrating low carbon solutions and pilots.	Lead	Freeport partners	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The East Midlands Airport Green Futures initiative has been launched, featuring projects to decarbonise the airport and surrounding area. Notably, the airport now has two net-zero buildings.
E5	2, 4	Develop a pipeline of projects to enable raising of capital and innovative investment models, linking to development of the Net Zero Funding Strategy and specific opportunities such as the Levelling Up agenda and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Lead	Districts LLEP	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery		LCC's Economic Growth Team collaborates with districts to influence the use of The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Some districts incorporate green initiatives with Rural Prosperity Fund grants. Hinkley and Bosworth DC has allocated funding for green initiatives and plans are underway.
E6	4	Provide consistent policy which stimulates growth in the low carbon goods and services sector.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is committed to responding to government consultations when they arise.
Business Support											

E7	1	Provide support to businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and develop low carbon goods and services through the Growth Hub provision.	Ask	LLEP Growth Hub Leicester City Chamber Business	S/M	H	H	7.5	Design	The Growth Hub is under review amid the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership transition. Although grants are unavailable, the Growth Hub is promoting the UKSPF funded Leicestershire Business Advice Service (LBAS). Ongoing webinars and programmes like 'Made Smarter' support innovation, and some Leicestershire companies have been successful at this. The successful Pathfinder Places bid will also provide support to businesses through a new advisory service.
E8	1	Explore opportunities for business training, education and events.	Ask	Chamber Growth Hub LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Design	East Midlands Chamber hosts various green events, while a green skills document and action plan produced by Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and Leicestershire County Council are awaiting approval.
E9	1	Evaluate the Zellar platform pilot and determine next steps.	Ask	LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	A successful pilot project assists businesses in calculating their Carbon Footprint, with upcoming steps focused on encouraging businesses to utilise platforms like Zellar for digital assistance .
E10	1, 2, 3, 4	Support businesses to reduce costs and mitigate against energy price rises and ensure continued growth and job creation within the renewable energy sector, through generation of on site renewable energy and development of joint ventures for large scale local energy projects.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	M	H	H	6	Design	Partners are progressing this work and elements will be supported by the Advisory Service which will be developed as part of the Pathfinder Places project.
E11	1	Support landowners and land managers to access economic support including the Environmental Land Management Scheme, and Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities.	Lead	LPA's LRP NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8	Design	Leicestershire County Council has been raising awareness awareness of potential Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites for credits when enquiries come in, and supporting queries on specific planning applications. This work will be progressed further at a later date.
E12	1, 5	Promote green tourism and green business opportunities in the county and review the tourism growth plan to support net zero ambitions and opportunities.	Lead		S/M	M	M	10	Design	The Council has been collaborating with the National Forest to explore a countywide scheme for businesses. Funding is secured to deliver a low-carbon toolkit for businesses in 2023-24.
E13	1, 4	Promote best practice through case studies and communications.	Lead	LLEP	M	L	L	8	Delivery	Continuous efforts are made by LCC and the LLEP through weekly e-bulletins, the Growth Hub and social media channels.
E14	1, 2	Consider options for low carbon business to business mentoring, peer support and knowledge share.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Districts Chamber	M	M	L	2	Design	The LLEP is progressing work in this area including webinars and events for businesses to collaborate.
E15	2	Enable innovation through innovation pilots and dissemination of knowledge.	Influence	BEIS Innovate UK KTN	S	M	L	6	Delivery	The Leicestershire Innovation Festival 2023, the largest to date, showcased 20 events. The upcoming Feb 2024 edition will focus on supporting business to reduce carbon emissions.

E16	1	Work with others to gather evidence on the large greenhouse gas emitters in Leicestershire.	Ask	LLEP Universities Leicester City	S	M	M	12	Delivery		The LLEP has supported a feasibility study examining carbon emissions around the airport and worked with the East Midlands Freeport to identify opportunities to reduce carbon - a baseline report will be shared in December 2023. Further studies, in collaboration with A study with Charnwood Enterprise Zone aims identify carbon emissions in this area and secure funding for emissions mitigation and energy-efficient building improvements.
E17	2	Seek opportunities to increase SME incubation, business development provision and consider how to optimise links between R&D funding and investment in industry, to attract venture capital, start-up entrepreneurs and investors to grow a larger and dynamic start-up community.	Ask	Districts LLEP	L	M	L	2	Delivery		LLEP invested £54m under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in high-profile projects, forging links between research and development funding and industry investment. Projects included collaborations with Universities in the county.
Supply Chain											
E18	1	Work with supply chains to reduce carbon and increase the offering of low carbon goods and services.	Ask	Districts Universities Business	S/M	M	H	15	Discovery		Work to be progressed at a later point, but early discussions being help by District partners.
E19	All	Consider how council investments can support the net zero transition, including development of a Pension Climate Strategy.	Lead	Leicestershire LGPS Committee/Board	S	L	M	18	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council has completed the Pension Climate Strategy, next steps are being considered.
E20	2	Promote circular economy principles to industry to decouple economic growth from the consumption of finite resources.	Ask	LLEP Universities	M/L	M	M	6	Delivery		LLEP Growth Hub have begun to hold and partner in sustainability for business events. In addition the LLEP has been working with partners such as LCC and Oxford University to explore in more detail the circular economy through such projects as 'Bean Meal'.
E21	3, 4	Support the delivery of zero carbon new builds and energy efficiency retrofit by building the supply chain for local skilled labour, low carbon products and retrofit skills, including securing funding for delivery programmes and considering social value requirements in procurement exercises.	Lead	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP Developers Business	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery		The Economic Growth Team collaborates with LLEP, Districts, and City on retrofit initiatives. Initiatives begin with upskilling council staff and involve partnerships with colleges and training providers to identify courses and stimulate employer demand.
E22	2	Support industrial innovation in renewable energy technology through research and pilots.	Ask	CREST Universities	L	H	M	2	Design		Freeport investment at Loughborough University enhances programmes linked to hydrogen and renewables.
E23	4, 5	Consider approaches to maximising natural capital in the county, with economic benefits, including growth in visitor economy, creation of forestry and land management jobs, and sale of carbon credits.	Lead	National Forest, Woodland Trust LRWT Land owners and managers LRP NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8	Discovery		The Local Nature Recovery Strategys (LNRS) may identify potential opportunities to maximise natural capital within the county. 'Visit Leicestershire's' sustainable tourism initiatives will boost the green growth of the visitor economy. The National Forest is also developing plans to support sustainable tourism.
E24	1, 2, 4	Support the delivery of low carbon transport by promoting and expanding existing advanced manufacturing facilities and research organisations.	Ask	Industry Business Universities	L	M	M	4	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council collaborates with MIRA Enterprise Zone to develop low-carbon transport options.
E25	2, 3	Build the hydrogen value chain in the county including hydrogen skills, production, distribution and demand, particularly within the logistics sector, including participation in the Hydrex project, launch of the Freeport hydrogen skills hub pilot and building on the success of existing projects such as	Ask	ERA Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub Midlands Connect	S/M	M	M	10	Discovery		East Midlands Hydrogen group, recently formed, will spearhead regional activities.

E26	9	Work with partners to investigate and support the delivery of scalable carbon capture and storage technologies	Ask	Universities Districts Business Energy Companies	M	H	M	4	Discovery		Current activities align with the mitigation hierarchy. Leicestershire County Council is not currently involved in carbon capture and storage development but actively monitors national progress in this field.
E27	1, 2, 4	Use of Enterprise Zones to support low carbon sector industry and business clusters and increase R&D capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects.	Ask	LLEP Universities	L	H	L	1	Design		Leicestershire County Council collaborates with Charnwood Campus Enterprise Zone and Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park to boost research and development capacity. Projects currently in progress.
E28	1, 2	Incentivise the low carbon economy through financial mechanisms such as VAT and other tax relief, enhanced capital allowances etc.	Influence	Government	S	L	M	18	Delivery		LLEP, through the broader Local Enterprise Partnership network, uses its influence to advocate for this matter with the Government.
Skills											
E29	3	Develop a Skills Strategy, addressing the skills shortages and weaknesses in training provision identified in the Midlands Energy Hub Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Market Insight Study, and promoting acceleration and diversity in upskilling and reskilling.	Ask	LLEP Universities FE Colleges	S	M	M	12	Design		LLEP and Leicestershire County Council collaboratively produced a Green Skills Document with a proposed action plan. Projects are in the design stage.
E30	3	Work with partners to raise awareness of green jobs with school age children.	Ask	LLEP Careers Hub Business	M	L	L	6	Delivery		LLEP develops materials for the Careers and Enterprise Company. Leicestershire County Council supports the promotion within the County Council and across the county
E31	3	Work with partners to promote green courses and increase availability of different courses.	Ask	FE colleges	M	L	L	6	Design		Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the development of Department of Education funded Green Skills Bootcamps for the area. This also links with the Green Skills Document (Action E29).
E32	3, 4	Continue to provide funding for skills and product development and long-term programmes of delivery.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council actively prepares for potential external funding opportunities to support these activities.

Resources and Waste

Key:

Current Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
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RAG rating

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
Waste											
R1	1, 2	Complete the review and adoption of Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	H	H	6	Complete		Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy was adopted in April 2023
R2	1, 2	Develop an action plan to deliver the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy	Ask	Districts	M	M	L	4	Delivery		A comprehensive Action Plan to guide our initiatives has been developed.
R3	ADDED IN	Introduce food waste collections by 31 March 2026 as per Government policy 'Simpler Recycling', including procurement of anaerobic Digestion capacity to treat collected food waste therefore contributing to carbon emissions reduction.	Ask	Leicestershire Waste Partnership Districts	L	H	M	2	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is currently waiting for the Government to confirm funding and timelines.
R3	1, 2	Continue to support residents to reduce food waste through national campaigns such as "Love Food Hate Waste"	Lead	Districts Government VCSE	S	M	L	6	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council supported Food Waste Action Week, and offered residents the opportunity to take part in a food waste prevention recipe competition. We continue to promote Love Food Hate Waste via social media and deliver training to volunteers to upskill them to deliver food waste prevention messages to residents.
R4	1, 2	Continue to support residents to implement home composting through provision of advice and guidance	Lead	Districts VCSE	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Over 500 subsidised home compost bins have been sold during 2022/23, reducing green waste to landfill. The Council has been supporting Compost Awareness Week and providing ongoing assistance via Master Composter Volunteers.
R5	1, 2	Continue to deliver a programme of initiatives to increase reuse and prevent waste from arising	Ask	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The Council continues to promote reuse initiatives, subsidizing classes on repair, and setting up collection points for reusable medical equipment at recycling sites.

R6	1, 2	Continue to encourage residents to recycle right and reduce contamination in kerbside recycling	Lead	Districts	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Our contamination campaign continues, guiding residents on how and what to recycle through diverse advertising channels. The Council actively supports and promotes the national Recycle Week campaign.
R7	1, 2	Continue to deliver a volunteer scheme to support and encourage residents to make positive behavioural changes	Lead		S	L	L	9	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council welcomed and trained new Master Composters, celebrated achievements with Environmental Action Volunteers, and initiated research on volunteering barriers.
Materials											
R8	1	Explore the opportunities for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan to support the move to a circular economy.	Lead	Districts Business	S	L	L	9	Delivery		The recent review of the Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP) has show that the plan remains flexible in its approach to recycling and re-use and that the policies and strategic objectives still support circular economy principles including waste management and carbon reduction. The LMWLP continues to deliver sustainable minerals and waste development in line with policy.
R9	1	Implement policy which seeks to eliminate single use materials.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Delivery		LCC responds to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
R10	1	Support national resource reduction campaigns such as "Refill" and "long live the lunchbox".	Ask	Districts Businesses	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The Council actively supports relevant national campaigns.
Food											
R11	1	Deliver the Sustainable Food Plan to reduce the carbon impact of food production, distribution and food waste	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership	S	H	H	9	Discovery		Leicestershire County Councils has been leveraging insights from Oxford's 'Bean Meals' project (completed Oct 24) to inform and enhance Leicestershire initiatives.
R12	1	Explore options for local procurement of sustainable food for Local Authority and Schools catering to increase demand and stimulate supply chains.	Lead	Businesses	M	L	M	12	Design		A sustainable procurement report has been completed for a project reliant on the Leicestershire Traded Services school meal service continued delivery.
R13	1	Support residents to grow their own food and buy local seasonal produce through the provision of advice and signposting.	Ask	Sustainable Food Partnership Districts	S	L	L	6	Design		Leicestershire County Council (LCC) supported efforts in Districts and Boroughs, with messaging through 'Good Food Leicestershire'. School programmes delivered by 'Food For Life' focus on local, seasonal and homegrown produce.
Water											
R14	3	Ensure a sustainable and resilient supply of water through leak reduction, customer education, provision of water efficiency measures, smart metering.	Ask	Water Companies	S	L	M	18	Discovery		Work to be progressed at a later date.
R15	3	Introduce more stringent water efficiency targets in national policy and regulations.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
R16	3	Consider water consumption in local plans including provision for water efficiency metrics in new developments	Ask	Districts	S/M-L	L	L	7.5	Discovery		The Leicestershire Planning Officer Forum initiates efforts to integrate net zero and environment into local plans. Adjusted to long term status pending changes in Local Planning guidance by the Government.

R17	3	Support residents and businesses to reduce water consumption through provision of advice and signposting.	Ask	Districts VCSE Water companies i.e. STW/AW	M L	L	L	6	Discovery		This action has been updated to a long term approach due to current resource limitations. Engagement with water companies pending.
R18	3	Introduce water efficiency product labelling.	Influence	Government	L	L	L	3	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise

Communities

Key:

Current Project Stage

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
Engagement											
C1	All	Develop a Leicestershire Climate Pact for organisations, businesses and residents to join and pledge action.	Lead	All partners Business Residents	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Launched in February 2023, the Pact has been supported by 27 organisations to date.
C2	All	Develop an engagement plan to facilitate an ongoing two-way conversation on climate change action to understand and respond to community experience.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	M	18	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This work has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places work and ensure comms activity is aligned.
C3	3, 4	Deliver public and stakeholder engagement that is representative and inclusive to develop and deliver a just transition to net zero with widespread public participation.	Lead	Districts Universities	S	L	L	9	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This work has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places work and ensure comms activity is aligned.
C4	3, 4	Explore options for innovative community governance, including a Citizens Panel, Youth Co-creation and Challenge Group.	Lead	Residents VCSE	S	M	L	6	Discovery		This initiative is now part of the Pathfinder Places project. A strand of this project aims to provide opportunities for community governance.
C5	All	Develop a coordinated and integrated information campaign to help residents make environmentally sustainable choices for their homes, travel and consumption.	Lead	Districts and local councils Health partners Businesses Residents Education Universities	S	L	L	9	Discovery		Building on the engagement plan development, the Carbon Reduction Team is exploring options for future activities with ongoing research. This work will be dependant on staff resources available to deliver initiatives.
C6	1	Explore opportunities to increase training, education and events, including carbon literacy.	Ask	Districts VCSE Education Universities	M	L	L	4	Discovery		Building on the engagement plan development, the Carbon Reduction Team is exploring options for future activities with ongoing research. This work will be dependant on staff resources available to deliver initiatives.
C7	All	Provide information and training to the County Council's Environmental Action Volunteers to support net zero.	Lead	EAVs	S	L	L	9	Discovery		While progress is underway, providing appropriate and necessary training to volunteers has faced some challenges, with staff actively working to overcome these hurdles.
C8	4	Integrate net zero into linked consultation and engagement activity to test public attitudes and experience.	Lead		M	L	L	6	Delivery		Leicestershire County Council has secured funding through the Net Zero Innovation Fund to engage disengaged members of the public on Net Zero matters. Ongoing activates use creative techniques like artwork and games.

C9	1, 2, 5	Develop targeted campaigns and opportunities to involve young people in shaping climate action, including working closely with schools.	Lead	Voice Network LLEP Careers Hub Youth Council Children in Care Council Education Youth groups	S	L	L	9	Discovery		LCC's Carbon Reduction team is currently researching engagement activities, with a particular focus on children and young people. It is planned that work can be delivered in the next financial year but the scale of delivery will be dependant on staff resources available.
C10	All	Work with Public Health services e.g. Local Area Coordinators, community recovery, green social prescribing, Warm Homes, Good Food Leicestershire to maximise the opportunities to promote climate action with co-benefits for health.	Lead	Health partners	S	L	L	9	Discovery		Efforts are underway to align with public health campaigns, with officers in discussion to collaborate on events and literature.
C11	2, 5	Develop tools and guidance to support communities to reduce carbon.	Ask	Universities Districts	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		The Green Living Leicestershire collaboration worked together to develop the Parish, Town Councils and Local Groups Net Zero toolkit which was launched in July 2023. Further work to promote this is being developed. LCC Communities team are supporting local groups such as the Melton Environmental Network to develop and deliver environmental schemes and projects in their community.
C12	2, 5	Production of national campaigns and toolkits to support consistent messages and promote personal action.	Influence	Government VCSE	S	L	L	9	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
Enabling Action											
C13	5	Support community action to reduce carbon through the SHIRE Environment Grants programme.	Lead		S	M	M	12	Delivery		The SHIRE environment grants scheme will conclude at the end of 2023/24, following a decision by the Council.
C14	5	Explore opportunities for community sector organisations to support on net zero activities.	Lead	VCSE	S/M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		Progress on this matter will be continued by via the communities team/ funding manager in 2024/25. The Pathfinder Places project will support community energy groups.
C15	5	Investigate funding opportunities to increase the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector for net zero in Leicestershire, for example, the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.	Lead	National Lottery	M	L	L	4	Discovery		The Pathfinder Places project will support community energy groups.
C16	1, 2, 5	Enable local Parish and Town councils to act on carbon reduction through information and training.	Ask	Local Councils	S	I	L	9	Delivery		The Parish and Town Councils and Communities Net Zero toolkit was launched in July 2023. Further work to promote this is being developed. The toolkit supports Parish Council's to develop action plans for their Parish.
C17	1, 2, 5	Share best practice case studies of community action and disseminate useful information.	Lead	Districts VCSE	M	L	L	6	Delivery		The 'Net Zero Toolkit for Parish, Town Councils and Community Groups' is now published, featuring various case studies of community actions. The Communities Network hosted a net zero series during 2023-24 to share best practice, knowledge and information.

C18	2	Improved product labelling to help consumers identify green / climate friendly options.	Influence	Government	M	L	M	12	Discovery		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
C19	2	Share information on local businesses to encourage residents to "shop local".	Ask	Districts Growth Hub LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery		Ongoing work includes a mapping exercise with the rural partnership of local shops and facilities. The Market Towns Subgroup champions 'shop local' by organising events to boost footfall.
C20	2	Harness the purchasing power of individuals, business and communities to stimulate and grow green supply chains.	Influence	All partners	M	L	M	12	Delivery		Solar Together 2022 has concluded, contributing 1.6MW to renewable energy production in Leicestershire, attracting £4.3 million in investment. The 2023-24 scheme is currently underway.
C21	2	Explore incentive schemes to facilitate behaviour change.	Ask	Districts	M/L	L	L	4.5	Discovery		To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes

Nature and Land Use

Key:

Current Project Stage

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Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
N1	All	Develop a Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire in line with government guidance when available	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LRWT Neighbouring authorities and Local Councils Leicester City Land owners and managers VCSE Natural England Environment Agency	S/M	M	L	5	Design		Leicestershire County Council is actively working on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) project plan, consolidating data for a comprehensive draft
N2	All	Publish national guidance and best practice on Nature Recovery Strategies.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Delivery		Government guidance has been published on the LCC website. Further guidance will be published/made available as it is released by the government.
N3	1	Complete further research to develop a comprehensive baseline evidence base of the state of nature and carbon storage for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest LRWT	S/M	M	L	5	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is advancing research as part of developing the LNRS, ensuring quality dependant on available resources and data.
N4	1	Build on the work of the Leicester and Leicestershire Natural Capital Strategy Assessment to develop opportunity mapping and create a natural capital investment plan to support net zero carbon.	Ask	LLEP Districts LRWT National Forest	M/L	M	L	3	Discovery		The LNRS will shape an opportunity map, considering biodiversity goals. Delays are due to awaiting government updates; Green Futures EMA project and Enterprise zones projects are encouraging biodiversity schemes as a means of reducing emissions and improving biodiversity.
N5	All	Implement the Action for Nature Delivery Plan and seek to identify carbon storage benefits where appropriate, particularly on the council's own estate.	Lead	Tenants	S	H	M	6	Delivery		Some progress being made, but being restricted by limited resources and LCC staff capacity issues.

N6	All	Develop and implement Biodiversity Net Gain policy and approach for Leicestershire.	Lead	Districts	S	M	L		Discovery		LCC's 2023 focus has been on the preparing and expanding the Ecology and Biodiversity Team ready for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) implementation in 2024. External working group discussions begin in early 2024 for a coordinated BNG policy.
N7	All	Explore opportunities for the council to be a biodiversity and carbon offset provider.	Lead	Lead	S/M	M	L	5	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council land has been explored to use for BNG offsetting; both in relation to its own developments and for sale to other developers. Initiatives to act as a carbon offset provider are to be explored further at a later date.
N8	1	Bid for funding to develop the evidence base for ecosystem services including carbon sequestration.	Lead	LRWT Districts National Forest	M	L	L	6	Discovery		To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes
N9	2, 3	Restore wet woodlands and other carbon rich habitats on council sites and promote case studies.	Lead		S	H	L	3	Discovery		To be progressed.
N10	2, 3	Deliver natural flood risk management schemes which support nature and offer carbon storage benefits where appropriate.	Lead	Environment Agency Landowners and Managers	S	H	L	3	Delivery		The Council is implementing flood risk management initiatives such as projects in Beedon on the Hill, along with four additional project in the pipeline. A bid for natural flood risk management projects on the Mease has been submitted.
N11	4	Promote natural flood risk management to landowners, highlighting the wider benefits for the local area.	Ask	VCSE Environment Agency	M	L	L	6	Design		LCC Flood Team are working with Trent Rivers Trust and landowners to deliver natural flood risk management works; and promote natural flood risk management and sustainable farming. New webspace developed to support this which will be online in early 2024.
N12	2, 3	Deliver the County Council's tree strategy and commitment to plant 700,000 trees by 2030.	Lead	Districts Woodland Trust National Forest Business Residents	S/M	M	M	10	Delivery		LCC's tree planting initiative has planted over 350,000 trees to date (Dec 2023).
N13	1	Complete the Value of Trees project and consider rollout of toolkit.	Lead	ADEPT	S	L	L	9	Delivery		The value of trees toolkit has been completed and the pilot has been set for this planting season.
N14	1	Continue work to quantify the carbon storage benefits of planted versus naturally regenerated woodland.	Ask	Forestry Research Council	S	M	L	6	Design		To be progressed.
N15	4	Investigate natural negative emissions processes e.g. biochar.	Ask	Universities	M/L	M	L	3	Discovery		To be progressed at a future point, medium/long timeframes

Land Management and Use

N16	4	Provide information and support to landowners and tenants wishing to maximise the benefit of land assets for public goods such as biodiversity, carbon reduction and climate resilience.	Ask	NFU Natural England LLEP Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council provides a newsletter to farm tenants which covers support and advice on land assets. LNRS work may spark further activity in this space, dependant on staff capacity.	
N17	1	Explore opportunities to gain a better understanding of the carbon and nature benefits of local food procurement and improved land management and how to measure and monitor improvements, particularly on the council's own farms.	Lead	Tenants	S/M	L	L	7.5	Discovery		The Council's report on sustainable procurement for Leicester Traded Services has been delivered, with ongoing work to implement the findings in the discovery phase.	
N18	1	Invest in additional research to improve understanding of carbon impact of different land management.	Influence	Government	S	L	L	9	Discovery		To be progressed	
N19	2, 3	Develop a single council policy to reflect the multiple objectives for land use and the need to ensure 'additionality' is gained for nature, particularly where several benefits are to be claimed e.g. biodiversity net gain, climate resilience, carbon storage.	Lead		M	L	L	6	Discovery		Leicestershire County Council is set to develop a policy to fulfil our biodiversity duty in 2024.	
N20	All	Consider nature and land use in local plans and requirements for developers e.g. Street trees, preservation and creation of green spaces, prioritisation of brownfield sites for development and land for energy generation assets.	Ask	Districts	S/M	L	M	15	Design		Leicestershire County Council actively engages with districts on appropriate nature and land use in Local Plans. The National Planning Policy Framework is currently under review.	

Cross Cutting Actions

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Leadership	Project status	RAG	Update
1. Achieve net zero carbon emissions for the council's operations by 2030 by delivering the Council's 2030 Carbon Reduction Programme.	Delivery		The LCC Greenhouse Gas Report for 2022/23 now being finalised to reflect emissions. Results show LCC is not on projected track to meet target for this year - 45% behind.
2. Assess the emissions from the council's supply chain and investments and develop a prioritised action plan for carbon reduction, including working with our supply chain to reduce carbon emissions and developing tools and guidance to integrate carbon impact into procurement decisions.	Design		LCC is currently working to redevelop our procurement strategy to include and strengthen environmental controls, once this is in place we can progress this action.
3. Strive to provide easy to understand climate information to educate and inform stakeholders, businesses and individuals about the need to act with urgency.	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This plan has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places project and ensure comms activity is aligned. Recent engagement work includes delivery of a Net Zero Parish Toolkit and discovery work to engage with schools and young people.
Collaboration			
1. Develop and promote a Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact to inspire other organisations and individuals to join the council in setting targets and delivering climate action.	Delivery		Pact launched in February 2023, 26 organisations signed up to date. Further promotion of the Pact planned for the coming months.
2. Develop a partnership and engagement plan which considers the role of stakeholders and individuals and how they can be encouraged and supported to take action.	Design		An engagement plan is in development as a strategic guide for communication activities. This plan has been paused to allow further development of the Pathfinder Places project and ensure comms activity is aligned.
3. Work with others to engage with national government to call for urgent action to deliver net zero carbon, including a clear framework and the resources required to define and support the role of local authorities in tackling the climate emergency.	Design		LCC will respond to Government consultation or similar, as and when they arise
Research and Innovation			

1. Work with partners, particularly knowledge-based institutions to support research, development and demonstration of low and zero carbon technologies.	Delivery		LCC is part of the Universities Civic Agreement, who we have worked with to successfully bid for money from Innovate UK to deliver the Pathfinder Places project. LCC is also a collaborative partner for Green Living Leicestershire, where the County and District/Borough Councils have collaboratively delivered various low carbon projects. This includes Solar Together which in 2022 contributed 1.6MW to renewable energy production in Leicestershire, attracting £4.3 million in investment.
2. Take an evidence-based approach to assessing options and decision making to support the net zero transition.	Design		Internal governance at Leicestershire County Council is being developed to support the 2045 Net Zero target. In terms of Leicestershire stakeholders the successful Pathfinder Places bids for both phase 1 and 2 will provide funds to research and develop an effective governance structure for Leicestershire's Net Zero commitments.
3. Support the development and deployment of carbon capture and storage approaches.	Discovery		Current activity follows the mitigation hierarchy prioritising carbon reduction over carbon capture, therefore LCC is not currently engaged with CCS development.
Funding			
1. Produce a funding plan for net zero, considering and taking maximum advantage of the diverse range of grant, finance, investment and other innovative models to deliver action.	Design		Net Zero Leicestershire Funding Plan is in development to explore a range of funding and finance options to deliver net zero. Next steps will be to produce a deliverable plan, linking funding mechanisms to priority actions of the Leicestershire Net Zero Action Plan.
2. Prioritise projects with multiple benefits, that save money and/or provide income.	Discovery		To be developed at a later stage
3. Consider the impact of delivering action on residents and ensure that solutions are affordable and fair for all.	Discovery		To be developed at a later stage - Equalities impact process will be used