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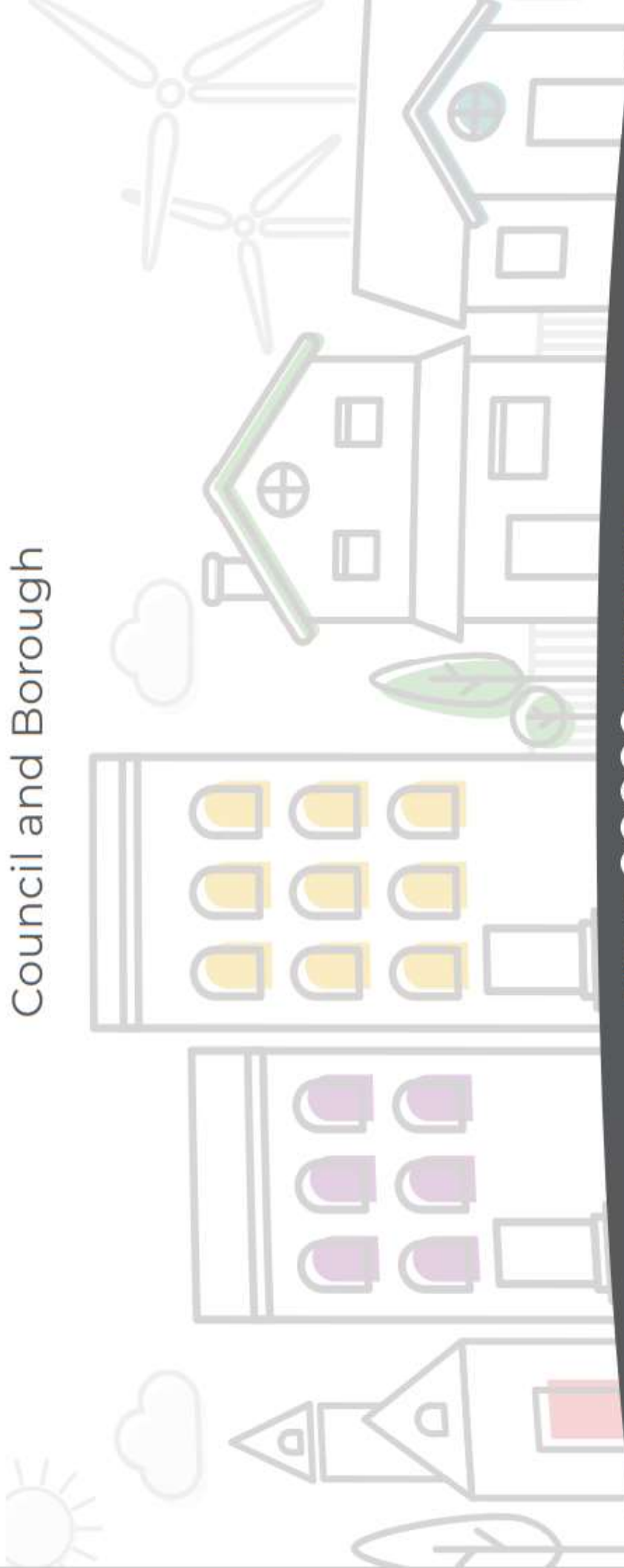


CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL'S

Climate Emergency Action Plan

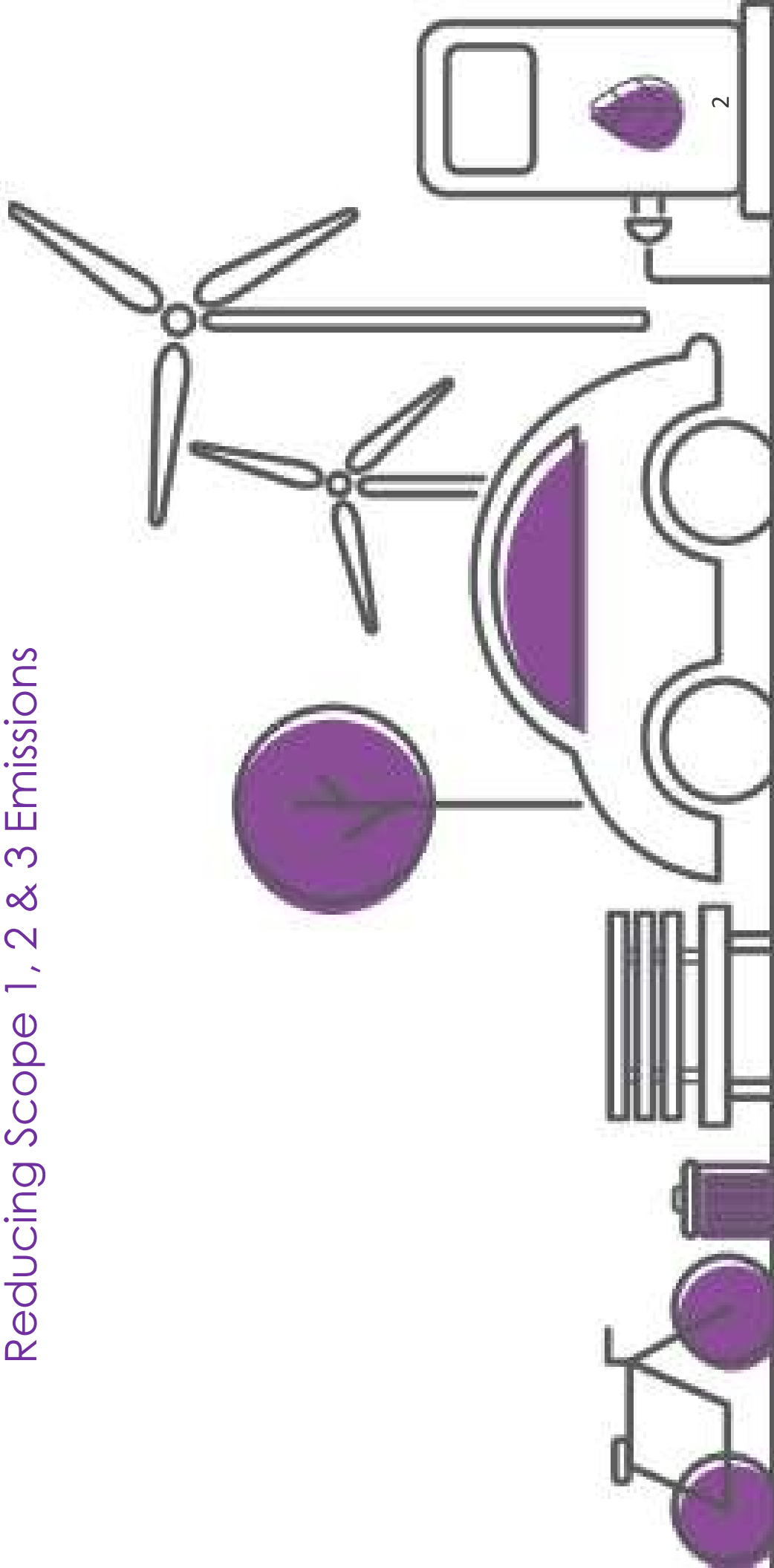
Pathway to Net Zero

Our 2030 action framework to become a net zero
Council and Borough



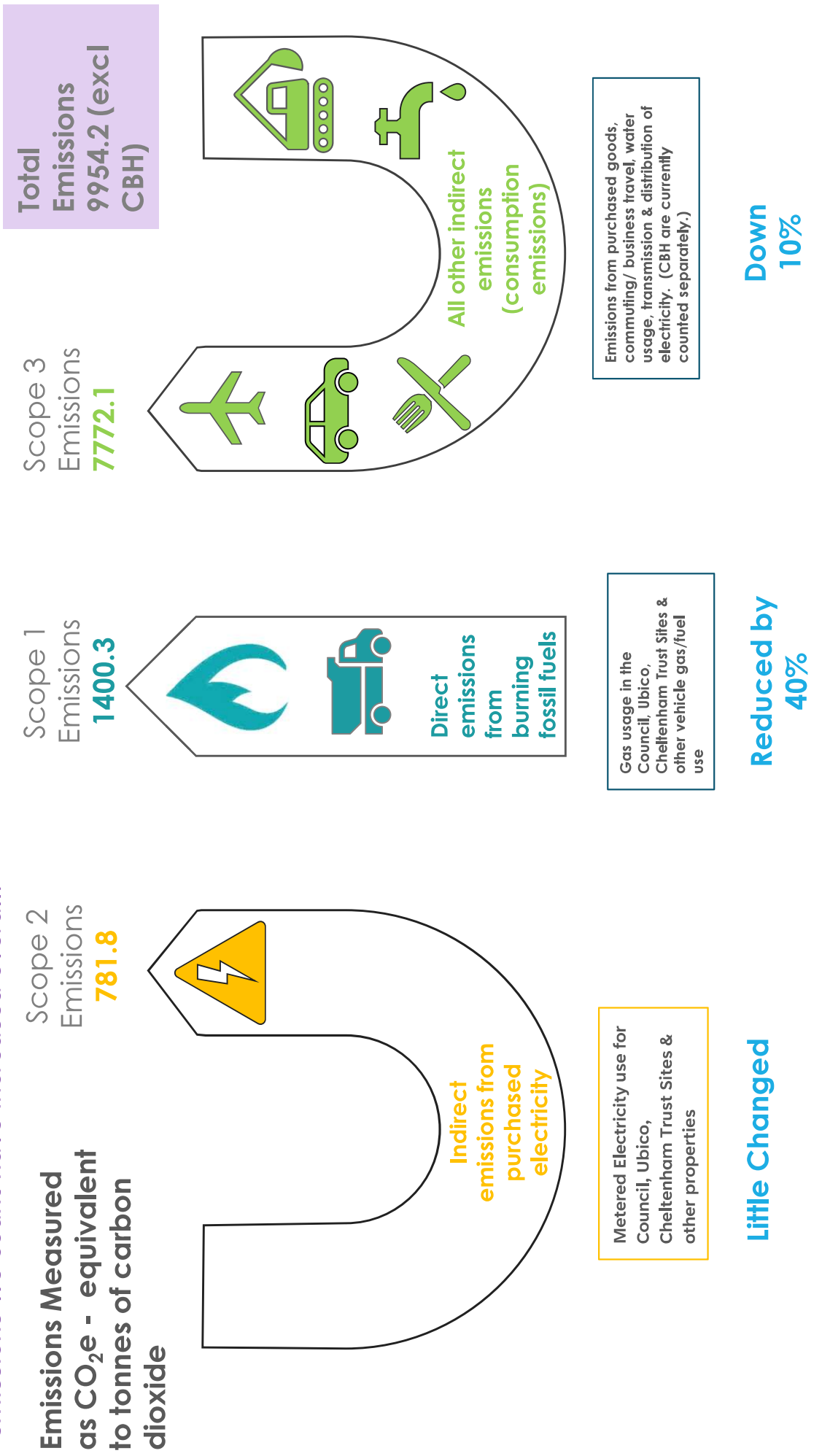
LEADING THE WAY ACROSS OUR OWN OPERATIONS

Reducing Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions



CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION PLAN

Our last report published in December, demonstrates that, against our established baseline, we currently remain on track for 2030 target. However, as we increase our precision, we find new areas to include, so the emissions we count have increased overall.



Emission reduction becomes harder to deliver over time, so a costed plan to 2030 and beyond, aligned to proactive maintenance and capital plans is essential. 3

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Overview

CBC strongly believes that in order to ask others to make the necessary changes to their organisations and lives, we must be seen to be leading on making these changes ourselves. By seeking to set ever higher standards, we can offer advice and share best practice to make it easier for others to follow, signposting to other leaders along the way.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Report our carbon footprint annually and encourage others to follow suit. Endeavour to be more thorough and precise over time and include more of our impact year on year. (Internal)

Commit to lobbying higher levels of government for stronger climate action and greater support to local authorities to help facilitate them making a difference. (Internal)

Introduce compulsory 'Carbon Literacy Training' to the Council and partners and commit to 100% of the Council's officers, staff and elected members gaining a Carbon Literacy certification. (Internal)

Develop case studies to share our experience in implementing climate initiatives, learnings and success stories, to help others learn from our actions, replicate, or ideally, do better. (Internal)

2024-2026

Leverage our position as 'The Festival Town' to drive change through the development of a more sustainable and carbon friendly events strategy. (External)

Action Colour Key

Green – actioned

Yellow – in process

Red – not started

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Carbon Footprint & Emission Reduction Pathway

Scope & accuracy continue to improve which has tended to increase the emissions that we count. However, the 2022/23 report demonstrates a continued progress towards our internal targets for scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions against an agreed baseline.

Looking Ahead: Maintaining the current trajectory will become increasingly challenging over time. A costed plan with deliverables and milestones to address internal emissions is essential to drive delivery. Plans are being developed for each of the Council's key buildings as an essential first step during 2024.

Training

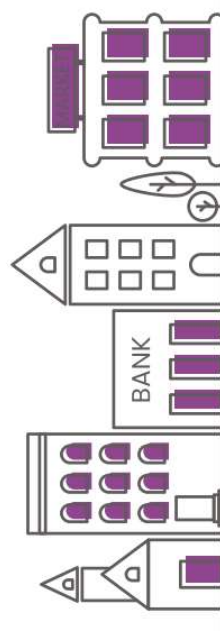
In 2022, Carbon Literacy training was introduced across CBC including Councillors with good attendance. CBC Directors attended a Senior Leaders training event and Learning & Development have delivered a range of training sessions to a cross section of officers.

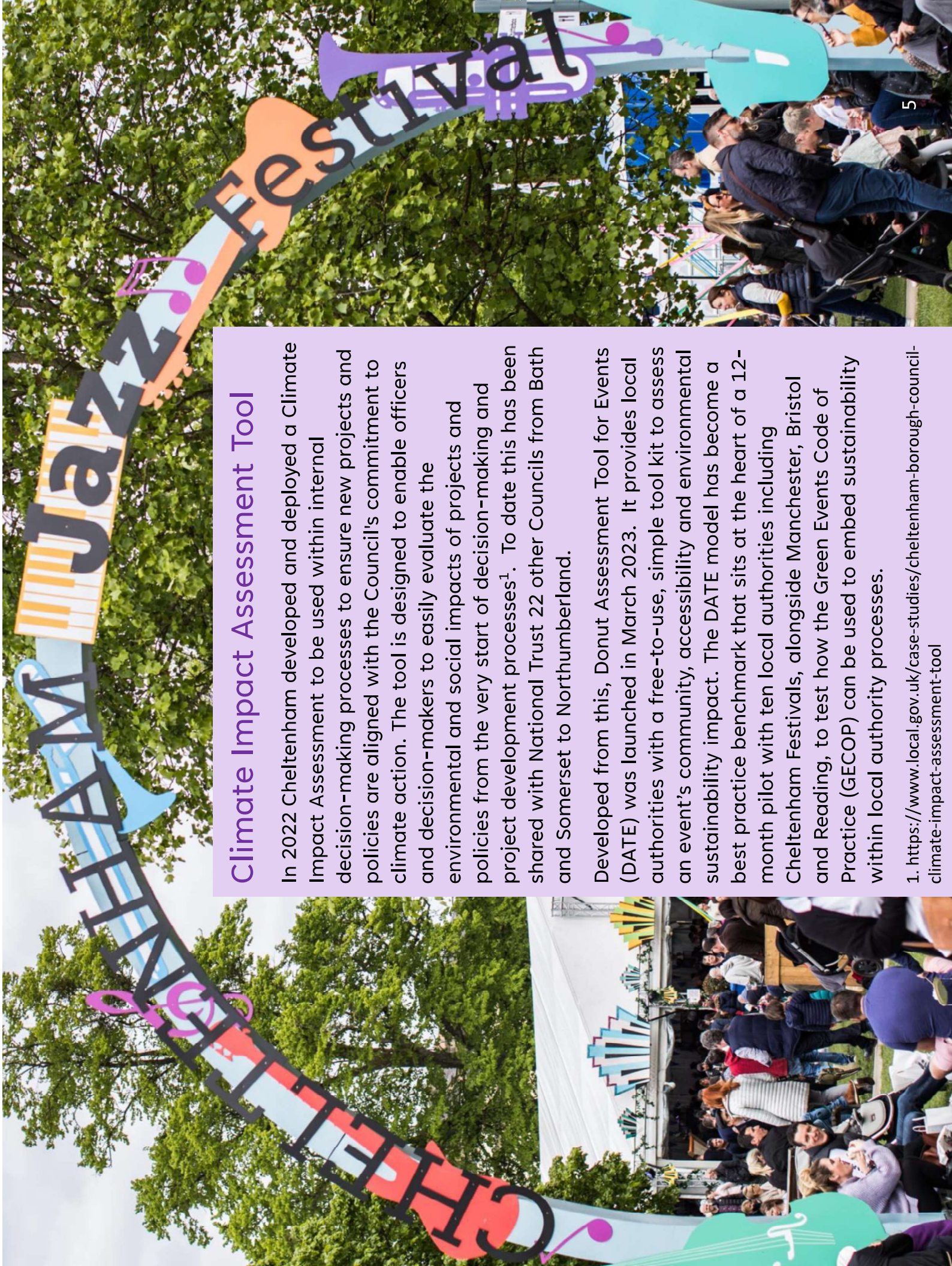
Looking Ahead: Working with Learning & Development, it is proposed that climate change is included at induction and targeted training interventions/modules are provided to officers and elected members when gaps are identified.

Best Practice Case Studies

Using our own impact assessment to prioritise and focus on sustainability, the CO2e emissions associated with the Ice Rink event were reduced by 98.7%.

Looking Ahead: The Cheltenham Events Strategy is being developed to deliver improved sustainability of festivals and events held across the Borough.





Climate Impact Assessment Tool

In 2022 Cheltenham developed and deployed a Climate Impact Assessment to be used within internal decision-making processes to ensure new projects and policies are aligned with the Council's commitment to climate action. The tool is designed to enable officers and decision-makers to easily evaluate the environmental and social impacts of projects and policies from the very start of decision-making and project development processes¹. To date this has been shared with National Trust 22 other Councils from Bath and Somerset to Northumberland.

Developed from this, Donut Assessment Tool for Events (DATE) was launched in March 2023. It provides local authorities with a free-to-use, simple tool kit to assess an event's community, accessibility and environmental sustainability impact. The DATE model has become a best practice benchmark that sits at the heart of a 12-month pilot with ten local authorities including Cheltenham Festivals, alongside Manchester, Bristol and Reading, to test how the Green Events Code of Practice (GECOP) can be used to embed sustainability within local authority processes.

1. <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/cheltenham-borough-council-climate-impact-assessment-tool>

DECISION MAKING, POLICIES, PLANS & STRATEGIES

Overview

We know there is a need for the climate agenda to be a strong policy thread across the council. Without climate being a focus for all our officers and members, woven through each of our departments, we will fail to embed a Net Zero culture. Thus, we will ensure all our decisions help to meet national and local net zero carbon targets, improve air quality and protect and restore nature.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Identify both a councillor at cabinet level and a lead officer as Climate Champions, who are required to publish an annual public report on progress against meeting the targets set out in the CEAP. (Internal)

Issue a new climate-focused Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to set a new 'Cheltenham Standard' for developers and aid our planners in their decision making. The SPD may include the necessity to develop using Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques, the requirement to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain, installing sustainable energy solutions, driving adoption of the 'Building with Nature' benchmark and the use of Passivhaus standards. (External)

Introduce a tool to ensure that climate implications are adequately considered at the early stages of each project, initiative or decision. This tool should be used to develop initiatives that the lowest possible impact on the environment whilst still meeting the needs of the Council. (Internal)

2024-2026

Annually review the existing and additional workforce needed to deliver the actions set out in this pathway and swiftly prioritise the decisions and investment needed to recruit the necessary capacity and expertise. (Internal)

Align our council statutory and non-statutory plans, policies and guidance with our climate, nature and green economy goals, including corporate areas such as procurement and infrastructure development (Internal)

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Leadership & Accountability

A Councillor at cabinet level has been in place since 2020, with a lead officer in place since 2021.

Looking Ahead: The organisation structure and expertise required to deliver against the emission reduction targets is currently being reviewed. Specific climate objectives will be set across service delivery teams to support delivery.

Climate SPD

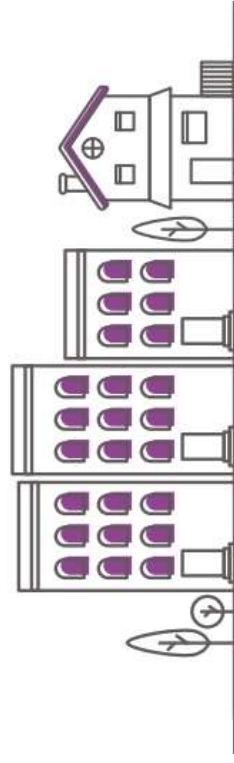
The Climate SPD was implemented in 2022 and has delivered early results. Because of the SPD, an additional 265 houses will be built using low carbon heat technologies, rather than gas boilers.

Looking Ahead: We are reviewing the effectiveness of the Climate SPD to date, to improve effectiveness and support development of effective Net Zero planning policies within the Strategic Local Plan. We are increasingly monitoring Council's own regeneration investment through this lens.

Climate Impact Assessment

The Climate Tool is routinely used to inform major decisions in the Council It has been used as best practice case study by the Local Government Association.

Looking Ahead: The Climate Impact Assessment is being reviewed to maximise effectiveness and inform further development of the tool.



FINANCE, FUNDING & PROCUREMENT

Overview

Both public and private investment is crucial to the success of reaching our targets for 2030. Our purchasing decisions across the borough can have a significant benefit, both in reducing our own scope 3 supply chain emissions, alongside reducing borough wide emissions.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Develop a Climate Investment Strategy known as 'Cheltenham's Green Deal' that approves and enables money to be raised for investment in green projects, using various means such as grants, bonds, or Community Municipal Investments (CMI's) to speed up carbon emission reductions and increase resilience to climate change and to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). (Internal & External)

Introduce an annual 'Climate Community Fund' that helps to finance smaller scale, community climate initiatives and projects, which can be used as best practice exemplars to encourage the take up of similar schemes. (External)

Ensure all future investment decisions take into account our climate emergency objectives. As the Council recovers from the impact from the pandemic, we will look at the earliest opportunity to review our modest investment portfolio, as part of our commitment of divestment from funds which support the burning or extraction of fossil fuels. (Internal)

2024-2026

Encourage suppliers to measure and report on their Scope 1 and 2 emissions, to help improve the level of detail of our Scope 3 emissions reporting, focusing first on the highest expenditure areas of repair and construction. (External)

Review our Procurement Policy to ensure all purchases properly consider climate-related impacts and add greater weight to purchasing from sustainable local businesses and those which add social value. (Internal)

Look to invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure that reap multiple environmental benefits wherever possible. This may range from small Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and rain gardens, to solar farms and green roofs. (External)

2027-2030

Work with other authorities and organisations in Gloucestershire to rapidly grow the green economy, by investing in economic activities that promote reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy efficiency and prevention of the loss of biodiversity. (External)

Use legal and planning mechanisms, such as Section 106 agreements, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and others to help fund climate actions and nature restoration projects. (External)

While acknowledging that the County Council is the lead transport authority, explore opportunities to introduce economic nudge mechanisms to help disincentivise car use, particularly for shorter journeys. Further encourage the County Council to use such mechanisms to enable and encourage sustainable transport, particularly measures that allow people to use active and collective forms of transport to travel to work, such as segregated cycle ways and public transport. (External).

FINANCE, FUNDING & PROCUREMENT

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Cheltenham's Green Deal

We published our Climate Change Investment Strategy, known as Cheltenham's Green Deal, in the summer of 2022. The Green Deal enables the Council to invest up to £10m climate related projects providing they meet certain investment criteria. Officers have used the Strategy to deliver £170k investment to drive emission reduction. The Green Deal ensures the Council is well placed to take forward the decarbonisation opportunities that are identified and provides a vital tool in supporting the wider objective for a clean and green borough.

Looking Ahead: Plans are being developed for each of the Council's key buildings as an essential first step during Q1 2024 and these will likely use the Green Deal to deliver emission reduction.

Climate Community Fund

The Climate Community Fund has made £100,000 available to support decarbonisation across the borough over 2 financial years.

Looking Ahead: During 2024 we will continue to make funds available to support Community decarbonisation projects.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Projects

Funding has been provided for climate related projects through the community CIL board, including new planting in Pittville,

an air quality project in Benhall and a project to include some honey on the Honeybourne Line.

Procurement & Scope 3 Emissions

We have worked with colleagues in Finance and Procurement to analyse our expenditure to address scope 3 emissions and inform a proposed procurement strategy for the future.

Looking ahead: During 2024 we will analyse our top 10 areas of expenditure and seek to work with our key suppliers of infrastructure, goods and services to identify opportunities to reduce the emissions associated with our expenditure to inform our approach to inform our strategy.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Rain Gardens

Our Climate SPD requires developers to include these as part of their plans, to balance rainfall. Alongside providing flood risk management, they have amenity and biodiversity value.

Looking ahead: We will monitor planning applications to ensure that these sustainable flood management measures are being implemented.

Working with Gloucestershire County Council Climate Co-ordinators

Working closely with our fellow districts across Gloucestershire will be key to enabling us to reach shared carbon reduction targets. To enable a shared programme of work to be delivered, an ongoing financial contribution has been made by CBC to support provision of the County-wide Climate Change Coordinators.

Looking ahead: CBC is supporting the workgroups and plans that have been developed alongside all of the Councils across Gloucestershire. During 2024, we will build on these plans to deliver our own borough wide emission goals.



BUILDING & ENERGY

Overview

Heating for homes and workspaces currently makes up almost a third of all UK carbon emissions and 42% of borough wide emissions, according to the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Improvements drastically need to be made on improving the energy efficiency of housing and non-domestic properties, ensuring they require less energy to heat, making them cheaper to run and more comfortable to live and work in, whilst reducing our dependence on imported energy. This needs to apply to both new and existing housing stock. We aim to tackle fuel poverty and thereby improve the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly during the winter months.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Measure the energy usage of CBC owned properties and develop a heating and energy efficiency strategy to set out actions needed to actively reduce energy consumption and move away from the use of fossil fuels. Introduce behaviour change programmes to reduce energy consumption in council owned buildings. Support businesses and residents to similarly reduce their consumption. (Internal)

Retrofit council-owned social housing, focusing first on the homes most at risk of fuel poverty. (Internal in future)

Develop a new 'Sustainability Design Code' for the Golden Valley Development, as a vision for integrated living in West Cheltenham that promotes a low carbon lifestyle. Our aspiration is for this thinking to then be replicated across the town, or within other districts and regions. (External)

Explore the viability of a shared low-carbon heat network, to help reduce borough-wide emissions. (External)

2024-2026

Retrofit council-owned properties with sustainable, energy-efficient solutions where feasible. (Internal)

Help owner-occupiers to create more energy efficient homes. For example, by supporting energy companies to provide fuel-poor or vulnerable households with insulation, or by helping influence the retrofit market to ensure there is effective demand for energy efficient measures by those that are classified as "able to pay". This may include supporting the provision of skills-training for local workers, actively encouraging applications for new installations, and facilitating the applications of funding bids from home owners. (External)

Seek to invest in renewable energy generation by identifying suitable areas in the future Planning Policy documents, such as the Cheltenham Plan and Joint Core Strategy. Review the feasibility of alternative energy sources, new technologies and innovations and the potential to be a net contributor. (External)

Commit to using 100% renewable electricity across council owned assets, including those operated by key partners. (Internal)
Support businesses and residents to do the same. Encourage developers to commit to renewable energy by stipulating requirements in a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). (External)

2027-2030

Engage with landlords to improve energy efficiency of homes in the private rented sector and commercial properties and encourage them to achieve good insulation. (External)

Look for potential to align Conservation Area policies with climate emergency goals. (External)

BUILDING & ENERGY

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Energy Strategy & Emission Reduction Internally We have spent £130k across our own key buildings alongside a wider programme of measures to improve efficient energy use.

Looking ahead: During 2024, we are putting together a costed emission reduction plan for key buildings and assets across CBC

Social Housing Retrofit

Retrofit is challenging, requiring long term planning. CBH already has a costed programme of planned investment to deliver and exceed governmental efficiency targets by 2030. During 2023, £800k Wave 1 funding delivered fabric improvements to 34 homes and fabric improvements together with installation of ground source heat pumps (GSHP) for space heating at a 25 unit sheltered scheme. Wave 2.1 will deliver £2.2m grant funding over 2 years between 2023/24 towards the fabric improvement of 175 homes with a further 12 homes identified to receive ASHPs.

Looking ahead: An outline decarbonisation plan has been drawn up but delivering Net Zero retrofit across the 4,500 houses will cost approximately 4 times the available funding, so retrofit will be accelerated as funding becomes available.

New Build Social Housing

CBC is working towards the delivery of Net Zero across its development portfolio, where technically and economically feasible.

Sustainability Design Code for Golden Valley

The Golden Valley SPD was also put in place to deliver high levels of sustainability.

Looking ahead: The development of the project against these stringent goals will continue to be reviewed alongside the regeneration team as the project is developed.

Supporting Retrofit for Homes Across Cheltenham

This year, CBC is planning a pilot project to deliver information and support around energy saving and retrofit in Cheltenham, empowering and enabling residents across 50 homes to act to future-proof their homes.

Looking ahead: This project will support development of the council's wider strategy around homes retrofit alongside the development of green skills.

Low Carbon Heat Network Development

CBC took part in governments heat networks zone pilot during 2022-23 to identify suitable locations for heating zones within Cheltenham, due for implementation in 2025.

Looking ahead: The Council is undertaking a detailed Heat Network feasibility study during 2024. Legislation is being put in place via Energy Act that will require connection to a network unless developers are able to demonstrate an alternative net zero option or exemptions apply.

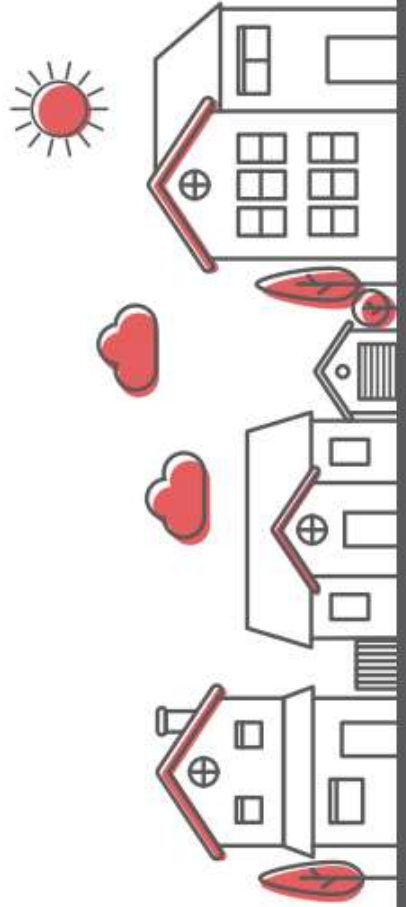
Energy Generation:

The first of two studies has been produced for the Strategic Local Plan to identify suitable locations for renewable development.

The Council purchases 100% renewable energy across its key assets.

The Climate SPD provides a signal to developers to commit to renewable energy.

Looking ahead: To consider recruitment of an Energy Officer to support local area energy strategy and delivery.



TRANSPORT, TRAVEL & AIR QUALITY

Overview

A modal shift to more active transport can reduce emissions from privately owned vehicles. An estimated 70% of car journeys within Cheltenham are under 2km; many of these journeys could be made on foot or by bicycle. For those unable to make these journeys without a vehicle, public transport needs to become a more attractive option. Policies such as this will help to improve Cheltenham's air quality with positive health impacts

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Work with GCC to prioritise transport investment in cycling and walking, with a priority of installing segregated cycleways, increasing space for pedestrians and introducing a 20mph speed limit in urban areas. Seek to safeguard routes for a future mass transport system to enhance and improve the sustainability of Cheltenham's public transport offering. (External)

Introduce new 'safe cycle hubs' across the town, working with businesses to help facilitate these, as well as installing more cycle racks, wherever it is suitable and safe to do so. (External)

Enable a shift to electric vehicles by installing electric vehicle charging points within Council owned car parks and support GCC with the delivery of their Local Transport Plan (LTP). (External)

Deliver a policy that will require all taxis to be electric, or another form of zero carbon as technology evolves, and support the provision of required infrastructure. (External)

2024-2027

Transition the council's own fleet to electric vehicles. Explore interim measures such as the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel in place of traditional diesel in instances where electrification is not yet a viable option, particularly for the Council's heavy goods vehicles delivering environmental services across the borough. (Internal)

Reduce the use of private vehicles used for commuting by council officers through a reinigorated green staff travel strategy, including progressive flexible and home-working options. (Internal)

Reduce car use through measures available to the Borough such as promoting car-sharing schemes, supporting the continuation of the county e-scooter trial, introducing staff incentive schemes such as 'Cycle to Work' and reducing or removing direct car parking benefits. (Internal & External)

Work with GCC to develop and implement a "last mile" strategy that encourages greener deliveries across the area by setting up an area-wide distribution centre. This will help remove large delivery vehicles from the central road network and facilitate the introduction of efficient cargo bikes to Cheltenham, whilst creating new jobs and economic growth. (External)

Review our existing car parking strategy. We will continue to explore ways to ensure alternative travel options to car use are viable and seen to be more favourable than driving. Town centre parking charges will need to reflect this policy choice. Repurposing some car parking spaces (i.e. by creating urban gardens or for car share schemes) will be necessary to demonstrate the council's ambition to remove priority for privately-owned vehicles and to amplify services and support for active travellers. (External)

2028-2030

Reduce the need to own and use a car by requiring that the location and design of new developments means they are demonstrably accessible by safe cycling, walking routes and good quality public transport and situated close to essential services.

TRANSPORT, TRAVEL & AIR QUALITY

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Safe Cycle Hubs

£1.00k funding has been secured to invest in creating a safe and secure cycle hub within the town centre during 2024.

Electric Car Charging

We are currently working through the implementation of phase 1 of the Council's own EV Charging plan to install approximately 40 chargers across 5 car parks during 2024.

Looking ahead: The aim would be to deliver over 200 chargers by 2029, within an incremental annual programme.

Taxi Policy

In April 2023, a policy was put in place implementing the ambition of the authority to operate a fully net zero carbon fleet by 2030 in stages, focusing on phasing out the most polluting vehicles as an essential first step.

Vehicle Decarbonisation Transition Plan

Starting with Ubico, the Council is working towards replacing all vehicles in its fleet under 3.5 tonnes with electric over time, subject to the charging infrastructure being available. The grounds maintenance team and the facilities cleaning team have been using 2 electric vehicles for over 18 months.

See the waste section for further detail on Ubico vehicle decarbonisation.

Sustainable Work and Travel Policies Internally

Alongside the Cycle to Work Scheme and Car Sharing Initiative, the Council has a fully flexible home working policy and provides bicycles that officers can use, where practical to carry out their roles. **Looking ahead:** The number of electric bikes will be increased.

GCC and Countywide Action

Alongside continuation of the E-scooter trial to 2026, in January 2023 all seven Gloucestershire authorities signing a Statement of Shared Intent (SoSI) to work together to reduce Gloucestershire transport related carbon emissions. As the lead authority, GCC is co-ordinating efforts enable sustainable neighbourhoods, deliver a modal shift and reduce road related emissions.

Planning Policy and Enabling Sustainable Transport

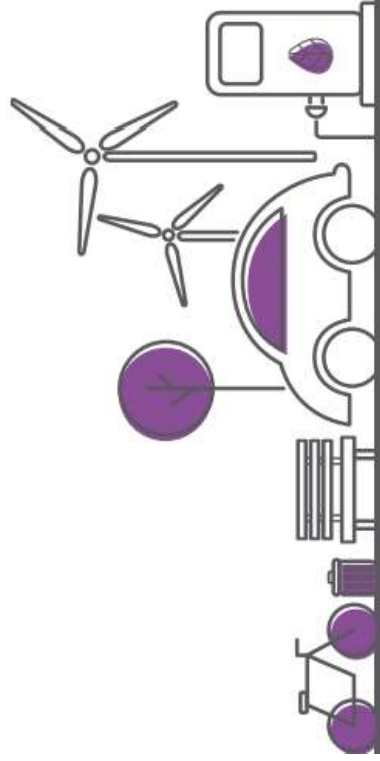
The Climate SPD includes measures to ensure that new developments consider and enable active transport and provide safe bike storage for residents.

Looking ahead: SLP provides an opportunity to support this approach more widely and has within its core objectives 'Prioritising sustainable transport and active travel.

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)

The link between air quality and health is clear. There is simply no safe level of pollution. As part of our responsibilities under local air quality management we developed a AQAP consisting of a comprehensive set of measures to improve local air quality. The plan was accepted by Defra in Feb 2024.

Looking ahead: CBC will strive to meet the actions outlined in its Action Plan by 2030, working closely with GCC in their role as lead Transport Authority.



NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

Overview

We are experiencing an ecological crisis, alongside climate change. Our wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystems are at risk if action is not taken. Planting more trees to provide shade, protecting and extending wild spaces for nature, increasing biodiversity, restoring our land to sequester carbon and building our resilience to flooding, will all contribute to mitigating climate change impacts. There are also health and wellbeing benefits derived from improving the quality of our natural spaces across the borough.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Update local planning strategies and work closely with other authorities, including GCC, to significantly increase tree cover across the borough and ensure existing trees are properly protected, in order to store carbon, support nature, aid flood protection and deliver health and wellbeing benefits. Increased canopy cover can also provide shade for people and buildings, cooling the air and ground temperatures in extreme heat. (External)

Manage council-owned land to increase biodiversity and reduce carbon pollution, i.e. through reduced pesticide use and mowing and increased planting of wildflowers and perennials. (Internal)

2024-2027

Focus on nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation. For example, work with a range of partners to develop opportunities for Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes across the borough to help mitigate flooding and adapt to climate change, using nature to hold and slow water run-off. (External)

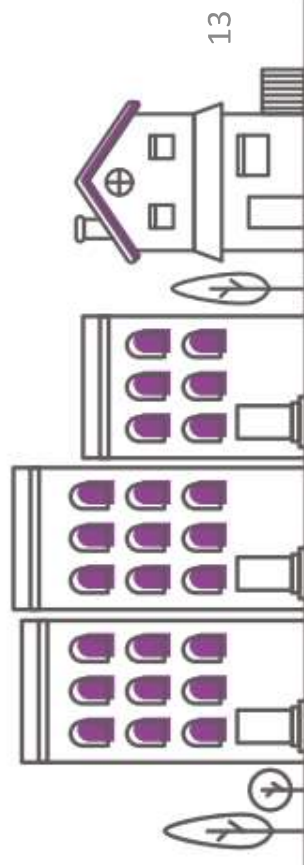
Seek to actively restore and expand ecosystems in line with the Environment Act 2021, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and natural carbon sinks. This could be through market based mechanisms that improve and safeguard our natural environment, for example the development of a habitat bank for biodiversity net gain credits. (Internal & External)

Work with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership and their Natural Capital Mapping project to help identify nature and ecosystem restoration opportunities across Cheltenham, to reverse and restore habitats, support species and promote ecosystem quality and function. (External)

2028-2030

Encourage and influence the uptake of green roofs on roof-tops with green roof potential to help support urban greening in the community. (External)

Identify demand for allotments with a view to increasing allotment utilisation and developing land for community spaces and provide opportunities for those that may not have access to their own garden. (External)



NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Increasing Treecover

1000 trees were planted during 2023 and support has been secured from GCC to plant a further 600 looking forwards. These were a mix of native and non-native species, large and small, short- and long-lived, with both insect and wind pollinated species. Increasing the diversity of tree species grown in Cheltenham is a key adaptation strategy for building resilience to climate change-related threats.

Looking ahead: we will evaluate the contribution our tree-planting makes to offsetting our carbon emissions in a robust and rigorous way.

Managing Council Owned Land to Increase Biodiversity

The Green spaces team provide a comprehensive annual summary to pick out the wide range of activities undertaken to improve biodiversity across the borough during 2023, this has included the implementation of no-mow May policy across a range of site, alongside perennials/ wildflower planting and work to reduce invasive Himalayan balsam.

A seedbank of local wildflower species has been collected from North-facing grassland on Leckhampton Hill, to support wider replanting schemes across the borough.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP)

The Council worked with GLNP on their natural capital mapping project and are developing CBC's approach to BNG.

Looking ahead: CBC has appointed an ecologist to support the development of the Council's approach to BNG, alongside its inclusion within the Strategic Local Plan and work being undertaken to develop habitat banks

Natural Flood Management (NFM)

Cheltenham Borough Council are working collaboratively with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to implement Natural Flood Management at Naunton Park (Swale completed and now operational). The GWT are also undertaking a scheme at Warden Hill (roof and roadside raingardens in design phase). These devices will slow the flow of surface water runoff and alleviate overloading of drainage networks and rivers downstream. The devices also improve water quality by allowing contaminants to breakdown naturally before they enter watercourses and improve biodiversity.

Looking ahead: Cheltenham Borough Council are also working with Gloucestershire County Council on their scheme to install roadside raingardens in Oakley and are part of the new Gloucestershire NFM delivery group, which is envisaged will enable more opportunities to deliver rural NFM schemes upstream of the urban area.

Allotments & Community Green Spaces

Existing allotments are being actively managed to ensure that these are being utilised. Additional sites have been identified in new developments such as Elms Park and in the West of Cheltenham.

Looking ahead: The team will actively identify new sites and ensure that greenspace commitments are honoured through the planning process.

Urban Greening

The EU funding secured in 2019 was spent on a range of urban greening projects. The green space team have built on these projects across the borough to improve the quality of urban spaces.

Looking ahead: The development of SLP policies will provide further opportunity to encourage urban greening.



Weavers Field Orchard

With the help of the Gloucestershire Orchard Trust and the local community, work has commenced on the restoration of an old orchard at Weavers Field in Warden Hill. The site which has largely naturalised over many years, has been brought back to life and supplemented with new trees, becoming a focal point for community activity and a hot spot for local biodiversity. Fruit trees are particularly good habitats for wildlife because they are “early senescent”. This means they get old relatively quickly and develop veteran features such as hollow trunks, rot holes, dead wood and sap runs. These features are important for over 400 species of saproxylic invertebrates that live on decaying wood.

Water & Waste

Overview

Water is often a forgotten limited resource in the UK, with easy access via our taps for a seemingly endless supply as and when we need it. However, climate change affects water management in multiple ways, including changes to seasonal and annual patterns of floods and droughts which can affect water quality and availability. This can have related impacts on our health, economic activities and on freshwater dependent ecosystems. Discarded plastic and other pollutants, along with an over-use of herbicides and pesticides, are also damaging the environment and reducing biodiversity across land and sea. The Environment Act 2021 is driving new business behaviour for waste and recycling. CBC will continue to work with the business community and residents to move towards a circular economy and improved resource efficiency.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Continue to work with communities and businesses to promote food waste reduction, local food sourcing, sharing of unwanted goods to eat food within the community. Continue to promote home composting and sustainable food waste. (External)

Promote community sharing and reuse to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption, including water. (External)

Develop an incentive strategy for all staff, including our partners, to help drive down energy consumption and waste across our buildings. (Internal)

Reduce the use of single-use plastic in council offices and premises and work with local businesses to help influence reduction in their plastic use and waste. (Internal)

Encourage businesses and other organisations within the borough to seek waste and recycling solutions which send zero waste to landfill. (External)

2024-2027

Following the new requirements set out within the Environment Act 2021, ensure adequate recycling and food waste facilities are provided across all Council-owned and operated buildings and community centres. Support small businesses to recycle, as well as seeking to expand the 'on the go' recycling bin provision across our public realm. (External)

Reduce water consumption at CBC owned sites. (Internal)

Leverage the new climate-focused Supplementary Planning Document to encourage the provision of better waste and recycling facilities in developments. Continue to look to the future for innovative ways of dealing with our waste collections such as underground bins to maximise land use and provide more opportunities for biodiversity. (External)

2028-2030

Adopt circular-economy waste policies in relevant plans and contracts. (Internal)

Work with Gloucestershire County Council and other partners to increase the uptake of water butts and grey water recycling in new and existing homes and non-domestic properties as well as continue to promote sustainable food waste disposal across the county as part of Gloucestershire County Council's contract arrangement for anaerobic digestion. (External)

WASTE & WATER

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Food Waste

Home composting is promoted on CBC's website and the Council has continued to promote food waste reduction on vehicles, and across its communication with residents, alongside working with the BID and the Chamber of Commerce to encourage food waste reduction in businesses. The new material sales contract donates food item to food banks in Cheltenham linked to our recycling rate and continues to promote food banks. Food waste is disposed of sustainably via GCC contract with Andigestion locally.

Looking ahead: We are exploring the case to roll out communal food waste scheme to communal properties alongside Cheltenham Borough Homes (CBH).

Community Reuse and sharing

Freegle is active in the area alongside Vision 21 Reclaim and Reuse initiatives.

Looking ahead: greater promotion of reuse planned for 24/25 in conjunction with CBH.

Enacting Environment Act Provisions For Recycling

Council offices, including CBH, have improved the range of recycling available and food waste will be home composted by a hot bin at the Swindon Road depot for the Council itself, CBH and Ubico staff by April 2024.

Looking ahead: The potential to expand on the go recycling with the replacement of existing town centre litter bins is being explored.

Leveraging Supplementary Planning Documents Around Waste

Both the Golden Valley SPD and the Climate SPD do cover waste and planning proposals are assessed against these benchmarks, though they don't provide the requisite level of detail.

Looking ahead: Potential for a separate Waste SPD is being explored.

Ubico Vehicle Decarbonisation and Swindon Road Infrastructure

Alternative fuels for the heavy goods vehicles have been put in place. As a transitional option, the majority of HGV's within Ubico have now been operating on HVO for over a year with significant emission benefits. A long-term fuel solution is required, as technology develops. Our 3.5T and under fleet is gradually being replaced by electric vehicles, where operationally and financially viable.

Looking ahead: A long term decarbonisation costed plan is needed both to support vehicle transition and essential enabling infrastructure within the depot for CBH and Ubico particularly. A new depot, operated by Ubico, to enable this infrastructure is likely a key enabler to this transition and GCC, CBC and TBC are currently working closely together to deliver this within available resources.



Collective Action

Overview

The council knows it cannot achieve the 2030 target alone. By working in partnership with organisations and residents across the borough, we can have greater power to bring about the necessary changes and action needed to achieve our collective global goal.

Proposed Actions

2020-2023

Drive the wider adoption of the CheltenhamZero Partnership across businesses, communities and residents, influencing behaviour change, collaboration and the sharing information and best practice.

Establish 'Climate Champions' among our communities, schools and businesses – building capacity for local people to be involved in helping meet our climate targets, inspiring communities and enterprises to find and implement solutions. Climate Champions will also be established within CBC and our key partner organisations to drive change from within.

Through mechanisms such as the CheltenhamZero Partnership, provide support to small and medium-sized enterprises, working closely with partners such as GFirst LEP, to access funds and expertise, so that they are able to contribute to carbon reduction and nature restoration plans.

Explore partnership opportunities for setting up 'zero carbon hubs' – decentralised futureproof centres promoting zero emission lifestyles, that help to educate, inform and advise on 'all things climate' for individuals and communities.

Regularly update the council's web content to ensure the most relevant and up to date information is available to the public.

Create or signpost to toolkits available for businesses, community groups, individuals and families, relating to topics such as energy, transport, waste reduction and children's climate education activities.

Work closely with the University of Gloucestershire to help support local climate-based research, which not only helps to identify opportunities for the Council and the Borough, but also develops the skills needed for our future workforce, enhancing student experience and employability.

Use influence with others, such as schools and other private businesses and organisations, to help ensure their buildings are zero-carbon, purchasing is green and the environment they supports nature wherever possible.

2026-2028

Work with businesses to seek to introduce local incentive schemes that may help enable more sustainable lifestyles, such as walking and cycling, reduced waste and healthier eating.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

Delivery Update & Future Areas of Focus

Cheltenham Zero

The Cheltenham Zero initiative is our main vehicle for addressing borough wide business and community group emissions. It now has 164 members and over 60 active carbon reduction plans included on the zellar platform designed to support businesses in calculating emissions and putting in place plans to reduce these. Further practical energy efficiency and emission reduction support is available via the Growth Hub.

We have made £100k available to support emission reduction across community groups since 2021, supporting a range of projects to decarbonise.

Looking ahead: During 2024, we are focusing on delivering £100,000 of grant funding alongside practical support and tools to help business across the borough to reduce their emissions via the Cheltenham Zero initiative, working with Vision 21. We are using this programme of support to inform our strategy to deliver improve energy efficiency and drive down carbon emissions to meet our 2030 target.

Climate Champions

Working with Planet Cheltenham, our local zero carbon hub, we provided funding and support for the Climate Change Makers, bringing together 11 residents from across the town on a peer-led learning journey around Climate Change and local solutions with an aspiration to empower and enable people to act in their communities.

Looking ahead: We will work within our communities to support decarbonisation, particularly focused around driving down emissions associated with domestic heat and energy use to maximise the impact on borough wide emissions

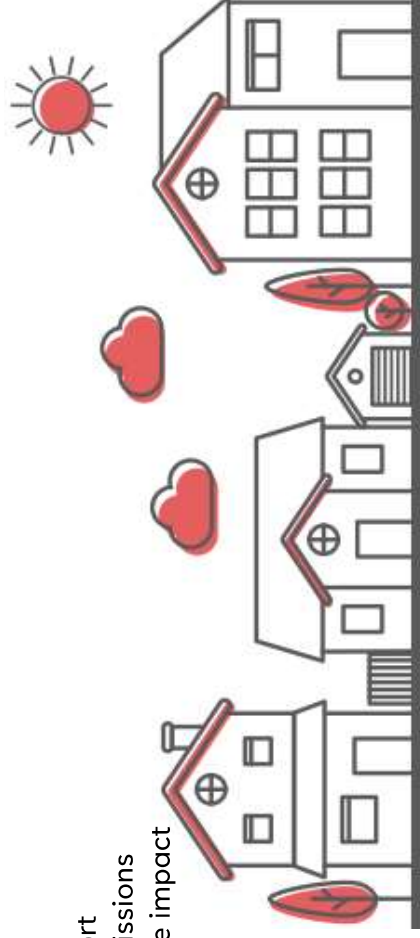
Communication and Toolkits

Alongside the practical support we provide for businesses via Cheltenham Zero initiative, we have made toolkits available on our website for community groups, individuals and families and the actions they can take at a personal level to drive down energy bills, reduce waste, foster nature recovery and support emission reduction.

Wider Engagement & Education

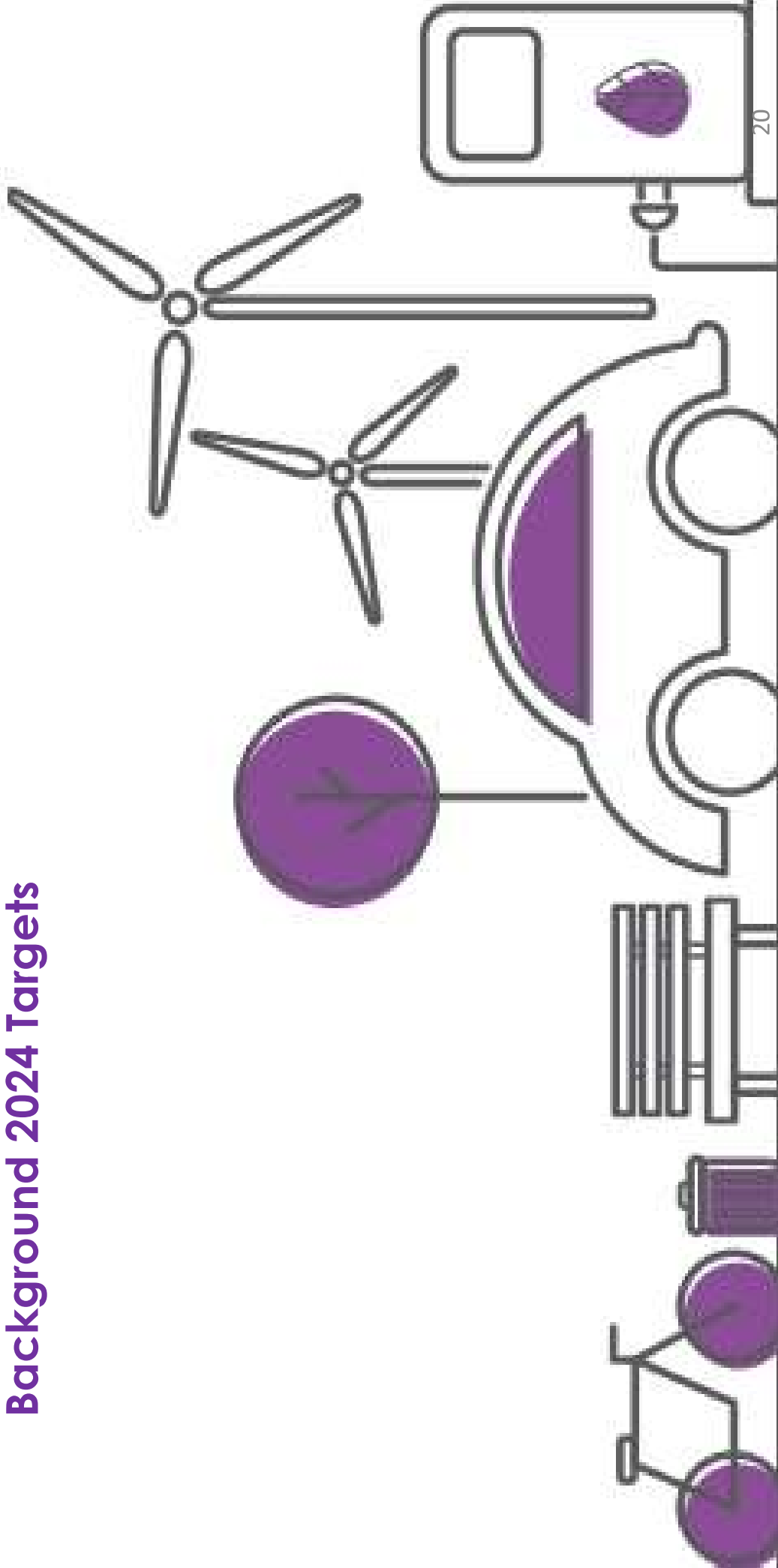
Working with partners like Planet Cheltenham, we provide outreach into schools and community groups to build understanding and insight around climate change and sustainability.

Looking ahead: As a festival town, we will use our events strategy to foster greater sustainability for the events in our borough.



LEADING THE WAY ACROSS OUR OWN OPERATIONS

Background 2024 Targets



Developing a Costed Plan To Address Emissions Across CBC Operations



Cheltenham Borough Council has set an ambitious 2030 net zero target. This requires development of a costed plan to reduce our Scope 1 and 2 emissions to almost nothing and to explore the viability of compensating for the remaining emissions through mechanisms such as carbon-offsetting¹.

Although we will address our Scope 3 emissions head on to reduce them, as far as possible, this may prove to be a longer process.

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions

- During first half of 2024 we will develop a costed plan for our most carbon intensive buildings, aligned to maintenance and capital plans, using the Green Deal amongst other funding strategies to support delivery of our plans.
- Over time, we will develop a costed, delivery plan and timeline to reduce emissions across all service areas, informed by our emission data, including a plan for our services from UBICO and Cheltenham Borough Homes.
- We will identify robust carbon-offsetting mechanisms to address residual emissions.

Scope 3 Emissions

To inform our procurement strategy to improve accuracy of our reporting and to address supply chain emissions, ensuring suppliers measure and report on their Scope 1 and 2 emissions, focusing first on the highest expenditure areas of expenditure.

- During 2024 we will analyse our top 10 areas of expenditure to inform our approach.
- We will encourage key developers to provide embodied carbon and lifetime carbon analysis to enable us to quantify Scope 3 emission impacts more accurately.
- We will continue to hone our Climate Impact Assessment to ensure we consider sustainability effectively within our decision-making across the Council.

¹. Currently Cheltenham Borough Homes emissions are counted separately. A decision will be required about how they will be incorporated moving into the CBC carbon footprint looking forward.

Organisation Design & Governance to Deliver The Action Plan



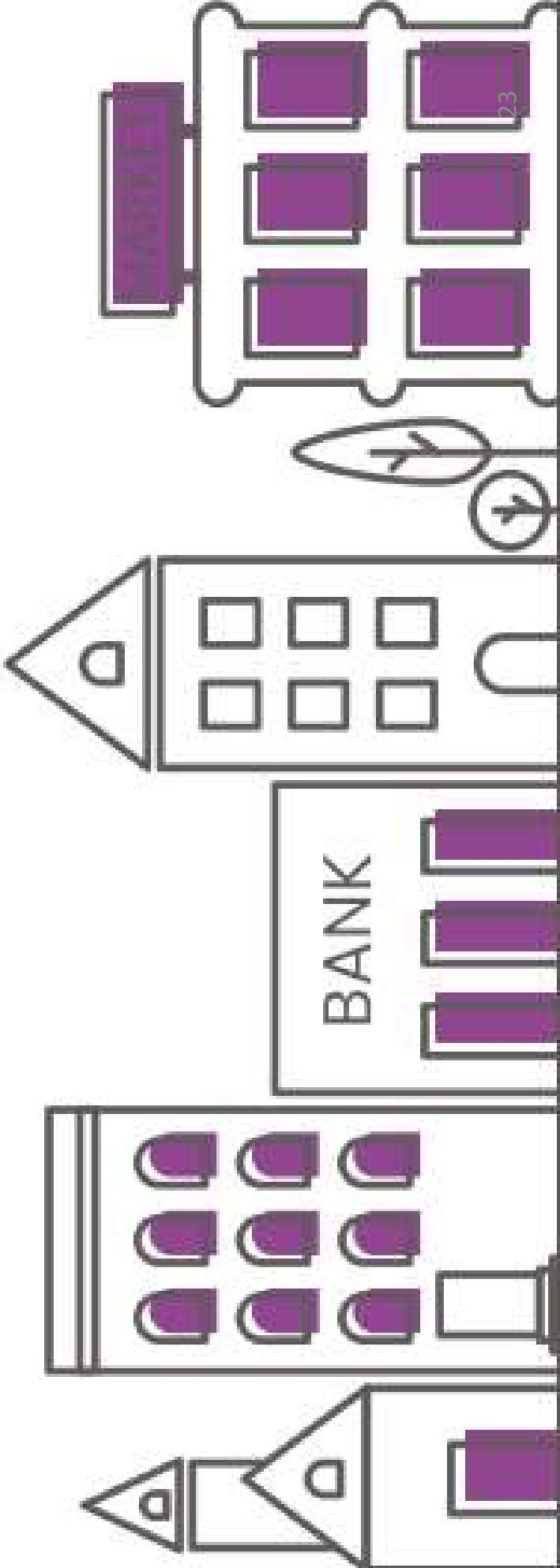
Cheltenham Borough Council developed a Climate Team to meet its action plan and appointed a Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency.

The organisation structure and expertise required to deliver against the emission reduction targets will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the organisation has the skills and capabilities it requires and is structured to deliver against key targets.

However, success doesn't rest in the hands of the climate team, but across the organisation. To this end during 2024:

- 1. Organisation Design:** The Climate Team will be reviewed to ensure it has the skills and capabilities to deliver against key targets and is well placed within the organisation structure to enable it to deliver its action plan.
- 2. Climate Programme Board Review:** Leadership, membership and terms of reference will be reviewed to ensure key personnel are involved to deliver against identified goals and we put in place a funding plan to deliver against our targets.
- 3. Developing Climate Targets:** Specific climate objectives will be set across CBC's departments and teams to support delivery of the action plan.
- 4. Training & Development:** Working with the Learning & Development team, alongside our induction programme, key topics will identified around which training interventions are provided to officers and elected members.
- 5. Develop a Risk Framework:** this is required to cover risks against meeting our action plan alongside a more informed view of our own climate resilience and adaptation risks.

REVISED ACTION PLAN TARGETS (Internal Emissions)

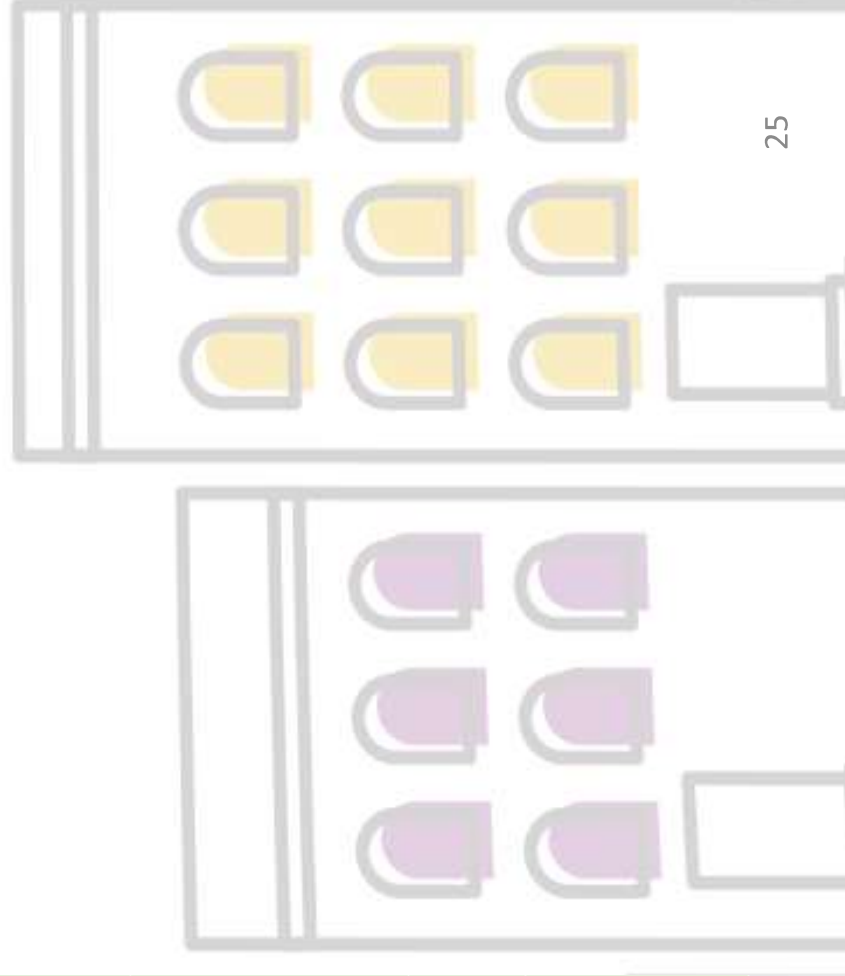


INTERNAL TARGETS - Scope 1 & 2 (Direct & Indirect Emissions) & Scope 3 (Supply Chain Emissions)

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (Direct & Indirect Energy & Fuel Emissions)		Scope 3 (Supply Chain Emissions)	
To devise costed plan for our most carbon intensive buildings, aligned to maintenance and capital plans, using the Green Deal amongst other funding strategies to support delivery of our plans.	Mid 2024	Inform our procurement strategy to improve accuracy of our reporting and to address supply chain emissions and meet our 2030 target, alongside wider social value considerations, ensuring suppliers measure and report on their Scope 1 and 2 emissions, focusing first on the highest expenditure areas of expenditure.	2024 for scope 3 analysis. 2025 for roll out
To create a costed, delivery plan and timeline to reduce emissions across all service areas, informed by our emission data, including a plan for our services from UBICO and Cheltenham Borough Homes.	End 2024	To analyse our top 10 areas of expenditure and seek to work with our key suppliers of infrastructure, goods and services to identify opportunities to reduce the emissions associated with our expenditure to inform our strategic approach across various segments.	2024
Our full asset portfolio	2025		
Social Housing (retrofit)	Plan in place. Bring forward as funding is available.	Define Strategic Approach and Consider Implementation plan	2025
Development	Ongoing		
Ubico building, vehicles and operations	2024	To encourage key developers to provide embodied carbon and lifetime carbon analysis to enable us to quantify Scope 3 emission impacts more accurately.	Ongoing (inclusion in Scope 3)
Green Spaces	2024		
To identify and implement robust carbon-offsetting mechanisms to address residual emissions by 2030.	Approach identified 2025 & implemented to 2030	To hone our Climate Impact Assessment to ensure we consider sustainability effectively within our decision-making across the Council.	Review complete Q2 2024
Review and deliver a green staff travel strategy to reduce the use of private vehicles used for commuting by council officers, including home-working options, car sharing incentives & cycle to work scheme. To reduce work vehicle electrification and reduced vehicle use during work hours through provision of bikes/ebikes.	Ongoing		

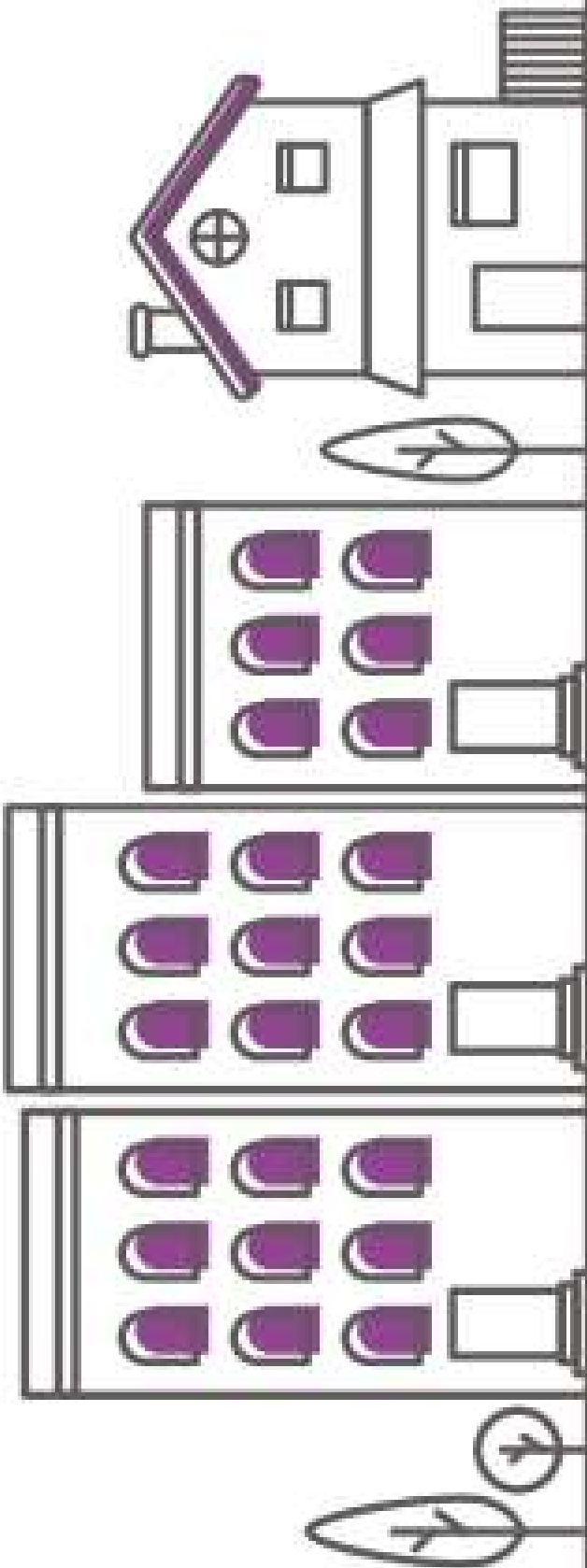
INTERNAL TARGETS - Governance

<p>Organisation and Governance</p>	<p>Organisation Design: The Climate Team will be reviewed to ensure it has the skills and capabilities to deliver against key targets and is well placed within the organisation structure to enable it to deliver its action plan.</p>	<p>Q1 2024</p>
<p>Climate Programme Board Review: Leadership, membership and terms of reference will be reviewed to ensure key personnel are involved to deliver against identified goals and we put in place a funding plan to deliver against our targets.</p>	<p>Q2 2024</p>	<p>Q1 2024</p>
<p>Developing Climate Targets: Specific climate objectives will be set across CBC's departments and teams to support delivery of the action plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Q2 2024</p>
<p>Training & Development: Working with Learning & Development, key topics will be identified around which training interventions are provided to officers and elected members.</p>	<p>End 2024 Report, Q1 2025 for Risk Review and Action Plan</p>	<p>Q2 2024</p>

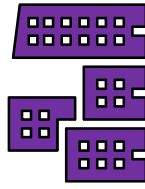


Addressing Borough Wide Emissions

2024-2026 Targets

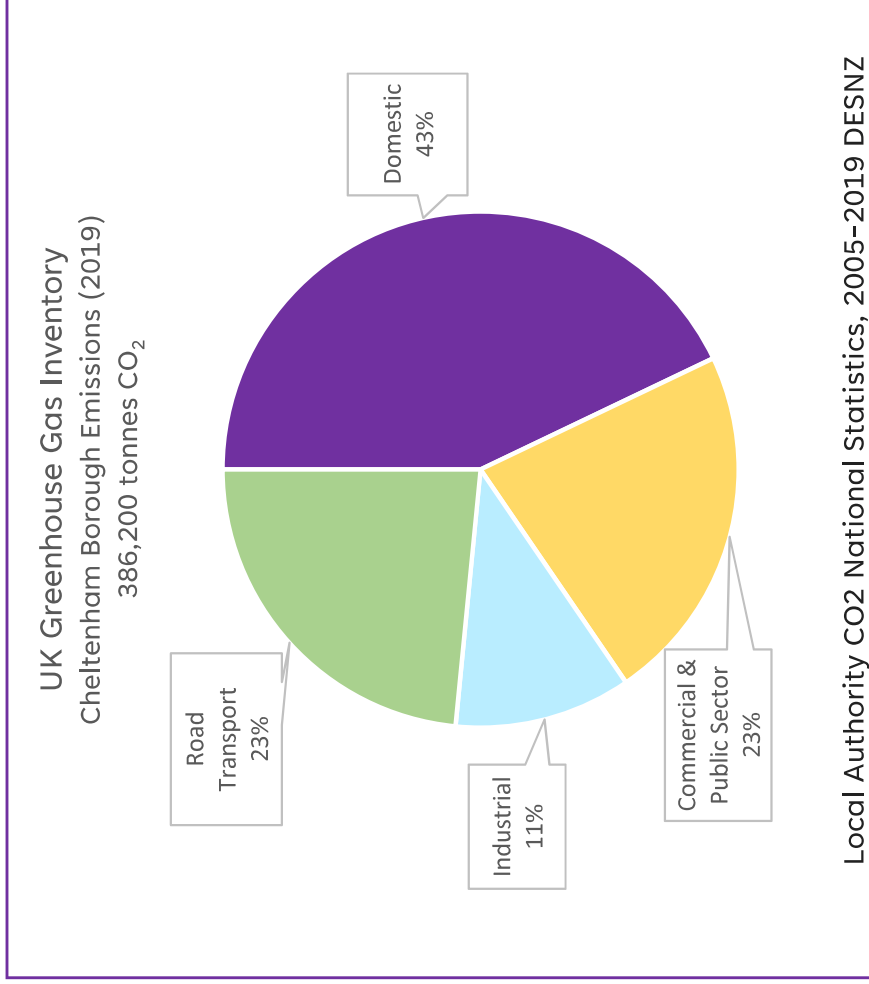


Developing Our Strategic Approach to Borough Wide Emissions



National figures from Greenhouse Gas Inventory estimated over 386kt CO2 emissions across Cheltenham in 2019. Whilst the Council has a range of levers to address borough wide emissions, it doesn't have the same level of control to deliver against these targets as it does within its own internal operations. Swift and focused action is needed for us to ensure we don't exceed our share of the overall UK carbon budget. (see Appendix 1).

There are a number of areas where we have taken proactive action. However, in priority areas of emission reduction, we remain at an early stage. We are learning from our early round of projects to inform development of our wider strategic approach and to enable development of a more tangible emission reduction plan and timeline.



To drive down emissions we have to prioritise effort in 3 key strategic areas

- Housing
- Business & Industrial Emissions
- Transport

A critical enabler to driving down borough wide emissions in these three areas will be local area energy planning.

As Gloucestershire County Council are the Transport Authority, we will need to work closely with them alongside our neighbours in this key area.

To this end we are implementing climate change adaptation measures across the borough.

Evolving our Strategy to address Business & Industrial Emissions



CBC has taken a leading-edge approach and developed early action in this area. To date, the Cheltenham Zero initiative, delivered with Vision 21, has resulted in 164 businesses signing up to the Council's 2030 net zero targets, with 64 of these businesses having an active decarbonisation plan on the Zellar platform we have made available to them to use. In addition, further practical support to formulate decarbonisation plans specifically focused in the commercial sector is being delivered via the Growth Hub.

- **Delivery:** During 2024 we move into the delivery phase. £100k grant funding alongside additional practical support has been made available to deliver tangible energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects in place for SMEs by CBC.
- **Strategic Approach:** Looking forwards, our strategy will provide a segmented approach to support institutions, businesses and community groups across Cheltenham.
- **Impact & Focus:** Our next step is to identify and engage with our most substantial emitters across the borough to better understand their own carbon reduction journey, alongside their barriers and enablers to inform the support we can provide to help them drive down energy use and decarbonise operations, (such as via renewable energy generation or low carbon heat networks for example) alongside understanding any green skills & growth opportunities they may have.

Developing a strategy to address housing emissions



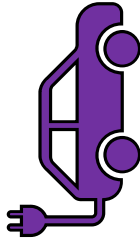
Domestic emissions currently account for up to 42% of borough wide emissions. High quality, energy efficient homes are important to ensure we have properties that are fit for the future as the net zero energy mix evolves.

Property retrofit is extremely challenging, as it has to be approached on a property by property basis. Within Cheltenham, we have a higher number of listed and historic properties which provide additional challenge and require particular focus.

We have a strategy that encompasses our approach to new build homes and a plan for our social housing, we should develop an approach to retrofit of existing homes including historic properties.

- **New Build:** The Climate SPD has provided a clear net zero benchmark for developers. We are evaluating how it has been utilised during the first 18 months to improve its effectiveness and inform development of policies to support the Strategic Local Plan.
- **Social Housing Retrofit:** Retrofit is challenging, requiring long term planning. Cheltenham Borough Homes has a costed programme of planned investment that is being used to deliver and exceed governmental efficiency targets by 2030. However, delivering Net Zero retrofit across the 4,500 houses will cost approximately x4 the available funding, so retrofit will be accelerated as funding becomes available. For new build social housing, CBC is working towards the delivery of Net Zero across its development portfolio, where technically and economically feasible.
- **Property Retrofit:** Commencing in April, the neighbourhood community trial will deliver information and support around energy saving and retrofit, empowering and enabling residents across 50 homes to take action to future-proof their homes. Alongside best practice examples from other parts of the UK, this will be used to inform our strategic approach to domestic retrofit and green skills.
- Our approach to historic property retrofit will require specific focus to provide practical guidance, leveraging best practice approaches across other parts of the UK.

Transport



Cheltenham are responsible for parking and development planning whilst Gloucestershire County Council are the Transport Authority and hold the funding and decision-making power for transport planning, roads and public transport. During 2023, CBC have implemented an Air Quality Action Plan to 2030. As GCC are the lead authority regarding transport, we will also need to work very closely with them to address key actions, improve air quality and bring down transport emissions.

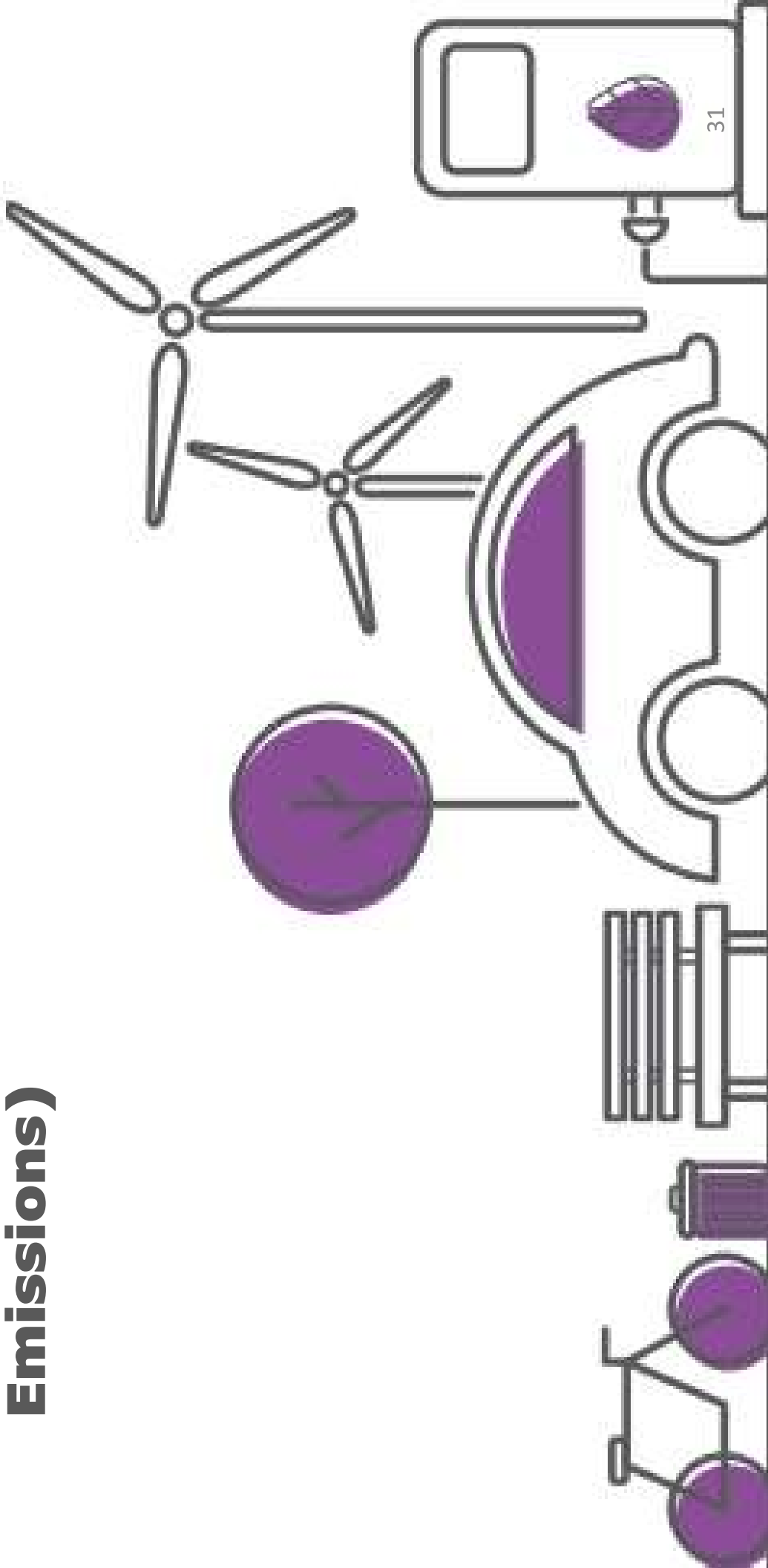
Borough Wide Action: £100k funding has been secured to invest in creating a **safe and secure cycle hub** within the town centre during 2024. CBC's **EV Charging plan** aims to deliver over 200 EV chargers by 2029, within an incremental annual plan. Phase 1 will install approximately 40 chargers across 5 CBC car parks during 2024.

Strategic Local Plan (SLP) : SLP provides an opportunity to enable sustainable transport and active travel opportunities across the borough by:

- enabling real options for healthy, accessible and walkable neighbourhoods;
- improving existing and providing new frequent public transport links and safe walking and cycling routes in all new developments;
- improving access to services in rural and urban areas through new development, improved integrated transport links and support to community led transport initiatives;
- integrating new development with existing networks and enhancing them where possible

Countywide Action - A groundbreaking agreement, signed by all 7 Councils, has been reached to work together on a Gloucestershire project to tackle transport decarbonisation and achieve net zero emissions by 2030. We will work closely with our neighbours to enable sustainable neighbourhoods, deliver a modal shift and reduce road related emissions

REVISED ACTION PLAN TARGETS (Borough Wide Emissions)



EXTERNAL TARGETS – Business & Housing Emissions

Housing Emissions		Business, Industrial, Institutional & Community Emissions	
New Build: The Climate SPD has provided a clear net zero benchmark for developers. We are evaluating how it has been utilised during the first 18 months.	Q1 2024 (Evaluation)	Successfully Deliver £100k grant funding alongside additional practical support, to reduce carbon reduction for SME's across the successful projects.	Q1 2025
SLP Policy Development to enable Cheltenham to deliver against its 2030 net zero targets.	2024-25	Revise and tender for revised contract to deliver a segmented strategy to supporting institutions, businesses and community groups across Cheltenham to reduce their emissions in line with the 2030 target.	Q2 to Devise. To deliver by 2030
New Build Social Housing: CBC is working towards the delivery of Net Zero across its development portfolio, where technically and economically feasible.	Ongoing		
Social Housing Retrofit: CBH has a costed programme of planned investment that is being used to deliver and exceed governmental efficiency targets by 2030. However, delivering Net Zero retrofit across the 4,500 houses will cost approximately x4 the available funding, so retrofit will be accelerated as funding becomes available.	Ongoing	During 2024, to identify and engage with our most substantial emitters across the borough to better understand their own carbon reduction journey, alongside their barriers and enablers to inform the support we can provide to help them drive down energy use and decarbonise operations, (such as via renewable energy generation or low carbon heat networks for example) alongside understanding any green skills & growth opportunities they may have.	Q3 2024
Property Retrofit: Commencing in April, the neighbourhood community trial will deliver information and support around energy saving and retrofit, empowering and enabling residents across 50 homes to take action to future-proof their homes.	To March 2025	Use influence with others, such as schools and other private businesses and organisations, to help ensure their emission reduction plans are aligned with Cheltenham's targets, procurement is sustainable and nature recovery is considered where relevant.	Ongoing
Alongside best practice examples from other parts of the UK, this will be used to inform our strategic approach to domestic retrofit and green skills.	Q4 2024	The development of Golden Valley will continue to be evaluated against the stringent goals with the SPD alongside the regeneration team as the project is developed.	Ongoing
Our approach to historic property retrofit will require specific focus to provide practical guidance, leveraging best practice approaches across other parts of the UK.	2024-25		

EXTERNAL TARGETS – Nature, Waste & Water

Nature and Biodiversity	Waste & Water
<p>Update local planning strategies and work closely with other authorities, including GCC, to significantly increase tree cover across the borough and ensure existing trees are properly protected, in order to store carbon, support nature, aid flood protection and to provide shade for people and buildings, cooling the air and ground temperatures in extreme heat.</p>	<p>Work with partner councils to provide a decarbonise future-proofed strategic waste site locally including depot and waste transfer facilities.</p>
<p>Evaluate programme impact on greenhouse gas emissions against robust offsetting criteria.</p>	<p>Implement the requirements within the Environment Act 2021, to ensure adequate recycling and food waste facilities are provided across all Council-owned and operated buildings and at kerbside, including carbons and flexible plastic packaing.</p>
<p>Develop opportunities for Natural Flood Management (NFM) schemes across the borough to help mitigate flooding and adapt to climate change, using nature to hold and slow water run-off.</p>	<p>Signpost advice and support for support for small businesses/ community centres to recycle.</p>
<p>Seek to actively restore and expand ecosystems, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and natural carbon sinks, including through market based mechanisms that improve and safeguard our natural environment, such as the development of a habitat bank for biodiversity net gain credits.</p>	<p>Review and where appropriate expand the on the go recycling bin provision across the borough.</p> <p>Continue to promote reuse, alongside food and residual waste reduction.</p>
<p>To work with neighbours via the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership, ensuring nature and ecosystem restoration opportunities in Cheltenham are developed in tandem with broader regional strategies.</p>	<p>Leverage the new climate-focused Supplementary Planning Document to encourage the provision of better waste and recycling facilities in developments. Consider the need for more detailed waste supplementary planning document including innovative ways of dealing with our future waste collections such as underground bins to maximise land use and provide more opportunities for biodiversity.</p> <p>Adopt circular-economy waste policies in relevant plans and contracts.</p>
	<p>2024 onwards</p>
<p>2024-2030</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>2024</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>2024</p>
<p>2024 Onwards</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>2028-2030</p> <p>2028-2030</p>

EXTERNAL TARGETS – Energy & Investment

Energy		Funding and Investment in Green Infrastructure/Green Growth	
<p>Low Carbon Heat Network Development: Complete Heat Network feasibility study to establish feasibility of networks in Golden Valley and in the centre of Cheltenham.</p>	Q3 2024	<p>Green Investment: Look to invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure that reaps multiple environmental benefits wherever possible, developing a portfolio of green investment opportunities (aligned to the Strategic Local Plan where relevant).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Net Gains • SUDS 	2024-2026
<p>Prepare for Heat Network zoning requirements that will require connection to a network unless developers are able to demonstrate an alternative net zero option or exemptions apply, including potential Heat Network Co-ordinator role (see below).</p>	2024- 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Farms, Energy Generation & Heat Networks • Battery Storage • Charging infrastructure 	
<p>Renewables Plan: The Climate SPD provides a signal to developers to commit to renewable energy. Ensure future SLP policies build on existing policy to ensure the potential for renewable energy is adequately covered within the Strategic Local Plan, including developing policies for renewable energy generation, heat networks, demand flexibility and battery storage; setting specific targets and location for renewable energy linked to the technical potential identified.</p>	2024-2025	<p>Green Growth: Work with Gloucestershire County Council Economic Development Team and other authorities and organisations to rapidly grow the green economy, by investing in economic activities that promote reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy efficiency and prevention of the loss of biodiversity within the CLG. Understand local business community to better identify borough wide opportunities.</p> <p>Green Funding: Unlock legal and planning mechanisms, BNG, such as Section 106 agreements, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and others to help fund climate actions and nature restoration projects.</p>	Ongoing
<p>Recruit an Energy Officer to support development of the local area energy strategy and delivery, including Heat Network Zoning requirements.</p>	Q2 2024	<p>Use Green Investment Deal where appropriate to fund projects beyond CBC.</p> <p>Identify sources of external funding and collaborate around these.</p>	Ongoing

EXTERNAL TARGETS –Transport & Collective Action

Transport		Collective Action	
<p>Borough Wide Action: Create a safe and secure cycle hub within the town centre by March 2025.</p>	<p>By March 2025</p>	<p>Work with ‘Climate Champions’ among our communities, schools and businesses – building capacity for local people to be involved in helping meet our climate targets, inspiring communities and enterprises to find and implement solutions to key challenges.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Implement CBC’s EV Charging plan aims to deliver over 200 EV chargers by 2029, within an incremental annual plan. Phase 1 will install approximately 40 chargers across 5 CBC car parks during 2024.</p>	<p>2024 - 2030</p>		
<p>Strategic Local Plan (SLP) : Ensure the SLP delivers on its objectives to enable sustainable transport and active travel opportunities across the borough by: enabling real options for healthy, accessible and walkable neighbourhoods with local amenities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving existing and providing new frequent public transport links and safe walking and cycling routes in all new developments; - improving access to services in rural and urban areas through new development, improved integrated transport links and support to community led transport initiatives; - integrating new development with existing networks and enhancing them where possible. 	<p>to 2026</p>	<p>Explore partnership opportunities for setting up ‘zero carbon hubs’ – decentralised futureproof centres that help to educate, inform and advise on ‘all things climate’ for individuals and communities.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Countywide Action - Implement the agreement to work together on a Gloucestershire project to tackle transport decarbonisation and achieve net zero emissions by 2030 via GCC workgroup to enable sustainable neighbourhoods, deliver a modal shift and reduce road related emissions</p>	<p>2024-2030</p>	<p>Work closely with the University of Gloucestershire to help support local climate-based research, which not only helps to identify opportunities for the Borough, but also develops the skills needed for our future workforce, enhancing student experience and employability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>