

### Horizon 3: Our vision for Essex 2031

By 2031 we are well on the way to becoming a net zero county. All the 2030 targets in the Essex Climate Commission's 2021 report have been met, and Essex is well placed to achieve net zero by, or before, 2050

- ✓ Residents and visitors value and use the natural environments of Essex. They not only buy local and are committed to achieving zero waste, but also recycle, reuse, repair and refurbish. They travel actively and enjoy our green spaces. Public culture is accessed in nature and public spaces. Universities, colleges, and schools generate and inspire people to gain the skills needed to tackle the climate crisis.
- ✓ Essex is a key centre of innovation in the UK where green economy is booming and attracting skilled workers into ever growing green industries, low carbon and environmentally responsible organisations. We operate to a Circular Economy whereby waste is eliminated, and closed loop systems are created to ensure the continual and effective use of resources.
- ✓ Businesses and citizens are carbon-literate; everyone understands and commits to the Net Zero target and their contribution to climate action, taking personal responsibility for their impact on the environment.
- ✓ We have invested in reforestation, renewable energy (including solar and wind), community energy and a new generation of Net Zero public sector buildings, as well as retrofitting of existing public and private sector buildings, and encouraging others to do so. Our public procurement only supports projects which delivery our vision.
- ✓ Nature is recovering, we have doubled the amount of natural greenspace, 50% of Essex farmland is being managed according to sustainable principles, we have established nature recovery networks throughout the county, and iconic species such as otters and skylarks are thriving.
- ✓ New developments are being constructed as nature-based, resilient communities. Residents have access to local green spaces, and cycling, walking and public transport is preferred, and most people have access to electric vehicles and can access charging points easily.
- ✓ We are resilient to flooding through widespread sustainable drainage systems, flood prevention and coastal flood management, and to extreme heat through commercial and residential space built to adapt to the future.
- ✓ We are recognised a leading green tourist destination, having invested in improving our natural capital including our coastline, biodiverse landscapes, and reintroduction of iconic wildlife such as beavers.
- ✓ All public sectors are committed to leading by example on driving this green transition to the decarbonisation of Essex and has demonstrated this through action e.g. showcasing what we can do through a major pilot project, as well as inspiring and supporting the community to make changes e.g. green retrofits.