



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:30	Thursday, 20 January 2022	Council Chamber County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 033301 39825

Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	5 - 5
2	Minutes from the previous meeting To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022. TO FOLLOW	
3	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. No statement or question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers will be timed. If you would like to ask a question at this meeting, please email Democratic Services by 12 noon the day before (Wednesday 19 January).	

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| 4 | Work Programme
To receive an update (PSEG/04/22) on the current Committee Work Programme. | 6 - 10 |
| 5 | Cabinet Member Update - Highways and Sustainable Transport Performance Measures
To receive an update (PSEG/05/22) from Councillor Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport on how the performance measures outlined in <i>Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025</i> will be achieved. | 11 - 12 |
| 6 | Climate Change Update
To receive a report (PSEG/06/22) and presentation from Samantha Kennedy, Director, Environment and Climate Action and Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Tsar. | 13 - 43 |
| 7 | Date of Next Meeting
To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 February 2022 at County Hall. | |
| 8 | Urgent Business
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. | |

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

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Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Agenda item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 5)

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor D Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S Crow	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor R Moore	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor L Shaw	Vice-Chairman
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	
Councillor M Stephenson	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor H Whitbread	
Liberal Democrat	Position to be filled

Work Programme

Agenda Item 4

Reference Number: PSEG/04/22

Report title: Work Programme	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 20 January 2022	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk.	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The work programme is a standard agenda item.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the work programme in the Appendix and suggest any additional items.

3. Background

3.1 Developing a work programme

Work has continued on identifying priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers.

This work has reflected the adoption of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* organisation strategy at Council on 12 October 2021.

The current work programme is attached in the **Appendix**.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy when considering the work programme and future items.

Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy', and 'High Quality Environment'.

Work Programme

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix – Current work programme

Appendix - PSEG Work Programme (20 January 2022)

Provisional Dates (2022)	Topic Title	Lead Contact / Cabinet Member	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Relevance to Scrutiny Theme (where applicable)	Cross-Committee Work Identified (where applicable)
20 January	Cabinet Member Update	Councillor Scott, Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To understand how the performance measures outlined in <i>Everyone's Essex</i> will be achieved and identify any further work for PSEG	Scrutiny of the Corporate Strategy	Link to the performance monitoring work of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee (CPSC)
20 January	Climate Change Update	Sam Kennedy, Director, Environment and Climate Action / Councillor Peter Schwier, Climate Tsar	Update on Climate Change work across ECC and response to Essex Climate Action Commission (this follows update in July 2021)	Climate Change	Link to the performance monitoring work of the CPSC
17 February	Culture and the Arts	Councillor Butland, Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture	To consider plans to support the arts and culture in Essex		
17 February	Country Parks	Councillor Butland, Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture	Update on proposals for Country Parks	Scrutiny of the Corporate Strategy (High Quality Environment/Health)	Consider any links to Active Essex/People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee/Health

Appendix - PSEG Work Programme (20 January 2022)

24 March	Bus Service Improvement Plan	Helen Morris, Head of ITPU / Councillor Scott, Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Six-month update on the implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan	Scrutiny of the Corporate Strategy (modal shift from cars to bus/bike/foot) and Climate Change	Link to the performance monitoring work of the CPSC
24 March	Local Highway Panels – Task and Finish Group	Councillor Steel, Chairman of the Task and Finish Group / Justin Long Senior Democratic Services Officer	To consider the final report and recommendations from the Task and Finish Group		
TBC	Highways Maintenance Update	Councillor Scott, Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	To receive a quarterly performance report on Highways Maintenance including the latest budget situation		Link to the performance/budget monitoring work of the CPSC
TBC	Minerals Local Plan Update	Richard Greaves, Chief Planning Officer/ Cllr Wagland, Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning	Update on the Minerals Local Plan including feedback on the public consultation and ‘call for sites’ engagement		

Appendix - PSEG Work Programme (20 January 2022)

TBC	Essex Enhanced Partnership	Helen Morris, Head of ITPU / Councillor Scott, Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	Update on the development of the Essex Enhanced Bus Partnership	Scrutiny of the Corporate Strategy (modal shift from cars into bus/bike/foot) and Climate Change	Link to the performance monitoring work of the CPSC
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Task and Finish Groups

Local Highway Panels – meetings in November 2021 to February 2022 with final report and recommendations to be considered at 24 March meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5
PSEG/05/22

Report title: Cabinet Member Update - Highways and Sustainable Transport Performance Measures	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Cllr Lee Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport	
Date: 20 th January 2022	For: Information
Enquiries to Alison Bielecka, Senior Strategy Adviser at alison.bielecka@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to provide Scrutiny Members with a short overview of performance measures from Everyone's Essex which the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport Portfolio contributes to. The measures in this paper do not cover all aspects of the portfolio e.g. fixing potholes, passenger transport or inspecting bridges etc. and instead reflect the portfolio's role in supporting Essex County Council's climate action ambitions, making it easier for those who can to make more sustainable transport choices.

Everyone's Essex Performance Measures

Within Everyone's Essex there are four strategic aims and 20 commitments overall. The commitments against which the Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport portfolio is delivering are listed below. All the measures sit within the High Quality Environment outcome reflecting our role in supporting ECC's climate ambitions.

Strategic Aim	Commitment	Performance Measure
High Quality Environment	6. Net Zero 7. Transport and built environment	Replacement LED streetlights
High Quality Environment	9. Levelling up the Environment	Miles of Coastal Path completed
High Quality Environment	9. Levelling up the Environment	Number of Flood Management Schemes Delivered
High Quality Environment	6. Net Zero 7. Transport and built environment	% EV take up in Essex
High Quality Environment	6. Net Zero 7. Transport and built environment	EV Charging points across Essex
High Quality Environment	6. Net Zero 7. Transport and built environment	Increase in the modal share from cars into bus/bike/foot

Replacement LED streetlights

There are approximately 128,000 streetlights which ECC own and look after across Essex. Since 2015, we have replaced our existing lamps with energy-saving LED lamps. In the first three phases of our LED rollout, we have replaced 45,500 lamps. 82,359 streetlights remain to be replaced. The 3-year programme is currently profiled as follows: Year 1 (2021/22) – 27,500, Year 2 (2022/23) – 27,500, Year 3 (2023/24) – 27,359

Miles of Coastal Path completed

Essex Highways plan to complete 8 further stretches of Coastal path depending on securing grant funding and approvals from the Environment Agency, Natural England and other interested parties. Plans include Tilbury to Southend-on-Sea and Southend-on-Sea to Wallasea Island both of which have been started. The remaining routes are: Burnam-on-Crouch to Maldon, Maldon to Salcott, Mersea Island, Salcott to Jaywick, Jaywick to Harwich and Harwich to Shotley Gate.

Number of Flood Management Schemes Delivered

ECC aim to deliver 13 Flood management schemes in 21/22. The team are looking at different ways to manage flooding and flood risk and hope to have future schemes using Natural Flood Management, a system whereby natural processes are used to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion, for example: restoring bends in rivers, changing the way land is managed so soil can absorb more water and creating saltmarshes on the coast to absorb wave energy. Nature-based flood solutions accumulate carbon and enhance biodiversity as well as reduce flood risk

% EV Take Up in Essex

Total cars & LGV's in Essex in 2020 was 912,255 with the total number of plug-in cars & LGV's in Essex (2020 Q4) was 5,970 (0.65%). We have based our target based on previous years' trajectory taking into account that the latest available vehicle licencing figures show that Essex has a low take up against comparator county councils and the overall England figure.

EV Charging points across Essex

This measure will capture the EV charging points which ECC is directly responsible for. This currently only numbers 4 (2 each at the Sandon and Chelmer Valley Park and Ride sites). An officer has been recruited to lead on this project who is now in place and to look at an overall EV / alternative fuel strategy (covering the fleet, and charge point provision).

Increase in the modal share from cars into bus/bike/foot

This measure includes annual targets to increase the modal share from cars and into bus/bike/foot from 31% in 21/22 to 35.5% in 24/25. If those who could use active or sustainable travel did so, instead of driving, this would have a significant impact on reducing Essex's carbon emissions, congestion challenges and air pollution. Active travel also improves health and wellbeing of participants, and reducing the number of vehicles on the road, particularly for short journeys or in urban centres, makes it easier for those people who to use the car.

Report title: Climate Change Update	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Samantha Kennedy, Director Environment and Climate Action	
Date: 20 January 2022	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Samantha Kennedy, Director Environment and Climate Action, at samantha.kennedy@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the latest efforts to tackle Climate Change including the Council's response to the [Essex Climate Action Commission's Report 'Net-Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral'](#) published in July 2021.

A presentation will be given at the meeting, but ahead of the meeting members are asked to consider the action plan approved by The Cabinet at its meeting on 24 November 2021.

Please click on the links below to access the Cabinet report and Minutes. The Action Plan agreed by Cabinet is attached as an Appendix to this report.

[Cabinet Report - Action Plan in Response to Essex Climate Action Commission's Report \(FP/177/10/21\)](#)

[Cabinet Minutes - 24 November 2021](#)

Appendix - Essex County Council's Response to Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral

Essex County Council's Response to Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral





















1. Introduction

Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral, sets out recommendations to 2050 and recognises that Essex County Council (ECC) cannot tackle this challenge alone. This document therefore outlines the immediate actions ECC is taking directly and in concert with partners to drive effective progress against the Essex Climate Action Commission's (ECAC) recommendations.

The ECC responses follow the structure of the Commission report under the key themes of land use and green infrastructure, energy, built environment, transport, waste, and community engagement. Please note that all funding commitments outlined below will be for the next 4 years to 2025/26 (unless stated otherwise).

2. Commitments

Essex County Council has adopted a new organisational strategy Everybody's Essex (ref: FP/172/10/21). This sets out four key strategic objectives for ECC as set out in the table below:

KEY for Contributions to Strategic Commitments							
Strong Inclusive & Sustainable ECONOMY		High Quality ENVIRONMENT		HEALTH, wellbeing & Independence for All Ages		A Great PLACE for Children & Families to Grow	
	Good Jobs		Net Zero		Levelling Up Health		Education Outcomes
	Levelling Up the economy		Transport & Built Environment		Healthy Lifestyles		Levelling Up Outcomes for Families
	Infrastructure		Minimise waste		Promoting Independence		Family Resilience & Stability
	Future Growth & Investment		Levelling Up the Environment		Place based Working		Safety
	Green Growth		Green Community		Carers		Outcomes for Vulnerable Children

One of the four strategic objectives is a core commitment to a High Quality Environment. This includes commitments to deliver on net zero targets; to deliver a step change in sustainable travel and support net zero and climate resilient housing developments; to reduce waste and deliver a more circular economy; to help our communities be more resilient against flooding; heat stress and water shortages; and

to work with communities and businesses providing advice and support to enable them take action to reduce green house gas emissions and build their own climate resilience. The commitment to a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy includes a commitment to green growth in Essex.

ECC is therefore committed to ambitious climate action and is embedding this across every aspect of Council service delivery. We also recognise that delivery of climate action also meets other ECC strategic objectives and this is set out below.

3. Cross Cutting Projects Within ECC

Essex County Council is leading a number of cross-cutting projects within the Council itself which are contributing to tackling climate change. ECC recognises that action on one theme can benefit another, and this has a cumulative positive impact:

3.1. Ways of working

The Ways of Working (WoW) Programme is to explore a future way of working at Essex County Council. It will have an impact on goals to meet climate change targets, reducing the energy we use and the waste we create.

ECC colleagues are working in different ways now to meet the needs of different people in Essex.

We know that a 'one size fits all' model will not work for our organisation, due to our range of different services with different needs. We also know that we will not return to using our workspaces as we did previously. We're focusing on:

- updating our workspaces and making them more comfortable to work in
- reducing how much energy we use and waste
- how we use technology, and making sure it works properly
- developing new hybrid workstyles that will work for every job role
- keeping the health, safety, and wellbeing of our people a priority
- supporting managers as they adopt hybrid working for themselves and within their teams

The ways of working programme is being undertaken in parallel with a property review and the final outcomes will frame future work in line with policy to make ECC estate net zero by 2030.

3.2. The Essex Pension Fund

[Essex Pension Fund](#) administered by Essex County Council recognises both their responsibility to be a trusted investor and the range of potential long-term risks associated with climate change that the Fund, as a long-term investor, faces. The Investment Steering Committee has appointed specialist external managers to a range of investment mandates. The financial impact of issues, including climate change, forms one part of the process that determines the investments made on the Fund's behalf. From this a full stakeholder consultation commenced summer 2020,

with the outcome of this being the formulation of a new Responsible Investment (RI) Policy based on a set of RI Investment Beliefs which includes climate change and forms part of the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement.

3.3. ECC Investments

Climate change will likely affect long-term investment returns. Temperature increases and measures taken to limit global heating will translate into lower returns on some assets. Climate change leads to conditions where economies are less productive and productivity growth is a key driver of economic growth. It is therefore important to mitigate these impacts where reasonable and practical to do so.

3.4. ECC Procurement

ECC outsources the majority of its services and as such has a significant spend with third party organisations. ECC introduced consideration of climate impacts as part of its social value procurement strategy launched in July 2021. The procurement team are reviewing policies and practices to build on this foundation and establish the most effective way of ensuring that climate considerations are taken into account in this third party spend. The whole procurement lifecycle will be considered, from contract specification, requirements at tender stage and performance monitoring. We will engage with existing and prospective suppliers throughout the review to better understand how we can work collectively to tackle climate challenges.

4. Land Use & Green Infrastructure

Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral made a number of recommendations on land use and green infrastructure, including 50 per cent of farmland in Essex to adopt sustainable land stewardship practices by 2030; 75 per cent by 2040 and 100 per cent by 2050, and coastal flood resilience schemes in critical areas to be implemented by 2023.


















Essex County Council has made one of its 20 strategic objectives, "Levelling up Environment", which states "we will help all our communities to enjoy a high quality environment by making them more resilient against flooding, heat stress and water shortages, by enhancing our county's green infrastructure and by reducing air pollution." This is a very good reflection of the Land Use & Green Infrastructure work going forward and acts as a vision for the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation teams.
























The basis for our work in Land use & Green Infrastructure is the 2020 Green Infrastructure Strategy which has provided an Action Plan which forms the platform of our Green Infrastructure work. This includes establishing a pan-Essex Local Nature Partnership, developing a Green Essex Fund, researching the very real potential investments of Biodiversity Net Gain metrics, Carbon credits, CSR payments and water company investments and delivering the Essex Forestry Initiative, which exceeded its targets in Year 1 (20-21).

The following table sets out the projects ECC are already committed to, the financial spend and how these align with ECC's strategic aims and how they meet the ECAC

recommendations. A number of these demonstrate that ECC is already going beyond these requests.

The following table sets out the projects ECC are already committed to, the financial spend and how these align with ECC's strategic aims and how they meet the ECAC recommendations. A number of these demonstrate that ECC is already going beyond these requests.












Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Flood Resilience - Capital Flood Programme	The floods capital programme is aimed at reducing surface water flood risk to the communities of Essex. The current programme has been highlighted as a priority up to 2024/25. The projects delivered through the capital programme will not only reduce surface water flood risk, but they will incorporate Natural Flood Management and Green Infrastructure measures that will provide environmental benefits such as habitat creation, carbon reduction/sequestration and health & wellbeing.	Capital 50% ECC funded, £6.57m. 50% Env Agency Grant, £1.97m 2021/22	    			
Flood Resilience – Community Climate Resilience Plans	Local Councils and the public more informed on steps they can take to address the climate emergency – whether adaptation or resilience. E.g. more informed about their flood risk and other climate change impacts in line with ECAC findings. Implementing proportionate local plans for mitigation and adaptation measures. Linking up with existing community groups and supporting the Essex Climate Action Commission changemakers programme.	£60,700 Revenue, Service Improvement Reserve	    			
Essex Forest Initiative	<p>In October 2019, we committed to plant 375,000 trees over the next five years. The primary reason is to lock up carbon, offsetting the carbon produced which is contributing to ongoing climate change. The trees will be planted across Essex, including on our own and other council's land and land from partners in voluntary sectors. The first year's planting target was 25,000 trees. We went beyond this and actually planted 38,615. This Initiative is supported by a Forestry Officer funded by the ECAC until April 2023. ECC works in partnership with other authorities and charities across Essex.</p> <p>Essex County Council was successful in securing a £300,000 grant from the Forestry Commission. The Local Authority Treescape Fund is designed to support tree planting outside of woodlands. As such, work has been undertaken with borough and district partners (Colchester, Harlow and Epping Forest) and ECC has one site of its own (Cressing Temple Barns) to deliver the planting and maintenance of 5,595 trees (some whips and some standard sized street trees).</p>	<p>Revenue New Investment £220,000 2022/23-2025/26.</p> <p>£300,000 grant from Forestry Commission</p>	   			








Building with Nature	ECC are working with Natural England and universities to write a set of Green Infrastructure Standards, which can be used to assess local planning policy and new development within the county to ensure that they are properly incorporating the principles outlined in the adopted Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy. The document has been through initial consultation and is currently going through a revision process based on comments we have received. We expect that a final version of the document should be published this winter. This Initiative is supported by 2 Green Infrastructure Planning officers funded by ECC until April 2023.	£680,000 drawdown from Climate Change Reserve 2021/22 to 2022/23 Sustainable land use.	   	 		
Maintenance Green Streets (Cross Cut Transport)	Essex Highways are the custodians of the public realm and there are multiple benefits to green initiatives, principal amongst these are flood reductions and urban heat stress reduction. To reduce the uncertainty about annual income we propose a Green Infrastructure Maintenance Reserve based on 35,000 trees at £55 per tree.	Revenue New Investment £1.925m 2022/23-2025/26.		  		
Local Nature Partnership	We have been working closely with the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) the Royal Society For the protection of Birds (RSPB) and Natural England to set up a Local Nature Partnership. The LNP will pull together over 80 diverse groups and organisations to co-ordinate a countywide approach to levelling up the environment and identifying options to make the most efficient use of resources. We hope that the first meeting will take place in November 2021. The organisations listed above are also undertaking a mapping exercise to identify suitable Nature Recovery Networks that we expect will form part of an Essex-wide Nature Recovery Strategy.	Revenue New Investment £267,000 2022/23-2024/25.	  	 		
Nature Recovery Strategy (Statutory)	The Environment Bill is introducing a statutory requirement for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). While the Environment Bill will require LAs to develop an NRS, the responsibility for delivery will be held across multiple partners. ECC are also seeking to have a partnership approach to adapting Essex to a Net Zero environment. We will set up a Local Nature Partnership (LNP). ECC are funding a new Green Infrastructure Delivery officer post until April 2023 and a LNRS and LNP officer for 2 years from January 2022.	Linked to Local Nature Partnership	  	 		
Water Strategy	ECC are working with Water Resources East (WRE) to put together an integrated water strategy for the county. The aim of this document will be to take a holistic view of water management across the county to maximise the use of green and blue features to capture surface water where it lands to help address future water scarcity issues that are likely to emerge because of climate change. In addition to this, the document will recommend a range of sustainable land management practices to reduce the need for potable water to be used as part of land management processes. It is envisaged the strategy will last 5-10 years.	Allocated funding from Climate Change Reserve. Included within £680,000 allocation for Sustainable Land Use, 2021/22-2022/23.		 		

5. Energy

The Commission has recommended that ‘Essex produces enough renewable energy within the county to meet its own needs by 2040’, with the Commission seeing a critical role in this for large scale solar production but ‘on available land without unduly compromising agricultural land’; that there should be a network of community energy neighbourhoods across every district; solar panels to be installed on every roof–and all fuel poor homes should be retrofitted.

ECC is committed to playing its part, sourcing its own electricity from renewable sources; supporting establishment of new community energy groups; helping 670 residents source solar panels and battery storage through a bulk scheme Solar Together; and supporting roll out of Government fuel poor grants, seeing 82 homes upgraded in the last year and supporting uptake of future grant funds totalling £5.2m (plus £17.2m and £2.58m pending successful bids to Sustainable Warmth Competition and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund)

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Buying Renewable Energy	Using our purchasing power as an electricity customer to encourage investment in additional renewable energy generation such as solar farms or onshore wind and enable ECC to source green renewable energy to power its offices and street lighting. This will give ECC some protection against energy price volatility and the potential to make long-term cost savings on our electricity bill.	£337,000 Revenue.				
Generating renewable energy on the public estate	Action plan to develop opportunities across ECC's public estate to generate renewable energy including rooftop solar on our buildings ERO and 14 schools, solar canopies and ground mounted systems across the rest of our estate. Builds upon £140k EU funded scheme EMPOWER that delivered solar on Danbury Country Park, Danbury Primary and St John's Primary schools delivered in 2020/21	Capital Grant funding Property Decarbonisation £6.65m 2021/22		 		
Making Essex a centre for innovation in renewable energy – Local area energy decarbonisation	South East New Energy, a grant funded programme to tackle the barriers to local areas rapidly decarbonising their communities, buildings, and lives. The project will deliver pathfinder projects on affordable net zero housing and retrofit in domestic housing through communal solar and storage and develop proposals for community ownership of large scale solar. It will identify and address barriers to delivering and financing projects at scale. ECC is working in partnership with Kent County Council.	SE New Energy Grant: £6.4m shared across Essex and Kent.	 	 		
Renewables policy	Action plans and planning policy guidance to support the development of renewable energy generation in the county including but not limited to solar farms, onshore wind, bioenergy, and hydrogen production.			 		

Solar Together	<p>Solar Together is a unique group-buying scheme for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage. This scheme will make solar PV and batteries more accessible and more affordable for a great number of people. This is open for residents and SMEs.</p> <p>Solar Together delivered solar panels on 305 households: a £1.3M investment saving 7,150 tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the installations. Residents saved an average of 20% on market rates.</p>	Management of the scheme by ECC resource.		  		
Essex Energy Switch	<p>The Essex Energy Switch is a county wide collective energy switching campaign designed to help Essex residents reduce their gas and electricity bills.</p> <p>We support residents to switch supplier through a collective energy switching campaign each year. 61,000 households have switched since 2014, saving more than £3.9M; on average £230 per household. 2020/21 Campaign – 2,323 switched their energy tariffs; an average of £161 per household; 1,989 tonnes of CO2 saved per year, 100% renewable electricity tariffs</p>	Management of the campaign by ECC resource.		  		

6. Built Environment

Net Zero: making Essex Carbon Neutral recommendations focus on ensuring new development is fit for the future with recommendations for new schools to be net zero by 2022; new homes and commercial buildings to be net zero by 2025 and all to be carbon positive by 2030. Developments also need to support active travel and deliver climate resilience with sustainable drainage as standard.

The second challenge is to recognise that whilst we need to look forward, we also need to recognise that over 80% of the built environment of Essex in 2040 already exists now, hence retrofit is a significant area of work.

The Commission recommends all schools have smart meters by 2021, and half should be retrofitted to net zero by 2025 anchor institutions, including ECC should be net zero by 2030 and 100% by 2030. Also, by 2030, all anchor institutions- the large public sector organisations across Essex – should ensure their estates are net zero; all fuel poor homes should be retrofitted and supplied with affordable energy and two thirds of all homes retrofitted to net zero. All retrofitting should include water as well as energy efficiency measures and a stronger policy on sustainable drainage should be supported.








Action is also being taken to train the trainers, and support the frontline town planners, building inspectors and elected members. Our research undertaken in 2020 revealed a huge appetite and demand for an ongoing programme of training, and access to best practice guidance as well as have technical specialists/expertise to support the District Councils in the formulation of planning policies, the evaluation of technical evidence submitted, in order to push forward the new standards needed



















within the Local Planning Authorities Planning to deliver Net Zero new developments by the 2025 recommended target date.




As part of its estate management strategy, ECC undertakes an annual maintenance programme covering all its built estate and the maintained school's estate. A significant element of this work includes roof, window, and heating system replacements and ECC are working to deliver low or zero carbon alternatives and upgrades when delivering these projects.








Progress is being made to upgrade existing schools and the ECC estate through the utilisation of grant funding to deliver Solar PV, LED lighting and Air Source Heat Pump projects.











Like many other authorities' ECC is currently reviewing its estate portfolio and working to develop an updated Estate Strategy in line with new Ways of Working. The running costs and carbon footprint of existing assets are a key consideration in establishing the future portfolio and ensuring that ECC can achieve its climate change targets. With a rationalised estate and a clear strategy in place, the authority will be better able to target carbon reduction investment on property that is to be retained long term and roll out more retrofit projects.


















Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Retrofitting homes and energy efficiency: supporting low-income households	<p>Advice and grant support to Essex households on low income or in fuel poverty and in poorly insulated homes to retrofit their home and improve its energy efficiency, lowering carbon emissions but also improving the living conditions, making the home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer and reducing energy bills.</p> <p>ECC received £776,000 in funding to support development of an advice website with Citizens Advice Essex.</p> <p>ECC delivered fuel poor grants totalling £0.8m Between Feb-Aug 2021 a communications campaign to promote this £800k funding was completed, ensuring over 80 Essex homes benefited from up to £10k worth of free energy efficiency improvements</p> <p>The South East Energy Hub currently holds a further £5.2m in grant funds to support retrofitting fuel poor homes. Funding will be promoted later in 2021 onwards to ensure many more Essex homes can benefit. This is a grant funded programme delivered in partnership with the Districts and BEIS. ECC has worked with 11 District, Borough and City authorities to bid for a further £17.2m in grant funding (outcome pending - funding tbc).</p>	<p>Green Homes Grant: £776,000 2021/22 Warm Homes Fund Grant: £800,000 2021/22. GHG LAD Phase 1a</p> <p>Marketing support provided by ECC resource for retrofit schemes.</p>	  	  		

	ECC has further worked with social housing providers to bid for £2.58m to upgrade 769 housing association properties across Essex (outcome pending – funding tbc)					
Retrofit Schools	<p>We have a programme to roll out smart meters to ECC controlled schools to enable better tracking of energy usage across the school's estate. To date 125 maintained schools have a meter fitted: a further 47 are in train.</p> <p>By the end of 2021/22 we will have installed solar panels that will generate over ½ million kWh of energy - saving our schools £77,000 a year in energy costs. These high specification solar installations enable schools to track their energy usage and generation and provide great information for teachers to formulate lesson plans. This information, combined with the data from our gas and electric smart meter installations, can provide evidence for further improvement projects, as we can target specific wastage within the school – and enable monitoring and targeting to be put in place.</p> <p>This year we have also been successful in receiving £1.8m of funding for double glazing, which has enabled upgrades across 15 sites – reducing their heating demand, and so their overall energy costs.</p> <p>We are funding a new team to support schools to develop a net zero investment plan to enable them to apply effectively for grant support for required investment.</p> <p>We will continue to seek funding opportunities, as well as utilising our school's maintenance budget, to deliver improvements across the school estate.</p>	£1.8m Window Glazing Grant secured 2021/22. Revenue New Investment, Carbon Education team £245,000 2022/23-2023/24.		   		
Retrofit Academy	The Retrofit Academy Community Interest Company (CIC) in partnership with Essex County Council will run a project to support residents and businesses to create jobs and growth from making private properties more energy efficient.	Grant Award of £717,060.	  	  		
Essex Housing Carbon Zero housing pilot	Essex Housing looks to exceed legal requirements for sustainability in all its developments. All private sale schemes delivered to date include photovoltaic panels, electric vehicle charging ports and ample cycle storage to encourage sustainable travel. Essex Housing is continually looking to build on this further and where viable, is now starting to bring forward schemes with air source heat	Revenue New Investment £640,000 2022/23.	   	  		

	<p>pumps, as well as considering how we can best ensure biodiversity is unaffected, or even improved on schemes. Residential units at the next two schemes to be brought forward, Purford Green and Shenfield Library, are designed to achieve an EPC 'A' rating and a carbon neutral pilot scheme is also currently being identified. It is expected that the Future Home Standard will launch in 2025 and under this standard CO2 emissions will be at least 75% lower than homes built today and Essex Housing will continue to seek to exceed these standards wherever it can viably do so.</p> <p>Essex Housing are bringing forward a pilot Net Zero – For Construction materials and in operation – development which will also give full consideration to climate resilience issues around flooding, water scarcity and overheating.</p>					
New Schools Net Zero	ECC has already commissioned a number of net-zero carbon school expansions, the first of which was handed over for school use earlier this year. These pilot schemes will help ECC identify the best way to deliver net-zero carbon school buildings in the future. As a minimum all new school buildings are now being designed with an A+ EPC rating, pending results of the net-zero carbon work.	Linked to schools retro fit to net zero, support provided by ECC resource.				

Anchor Institution commitments	<p>ECC has a policy to transform its own estate to net zero by 2030. ECC will continue to work with other anchor institutions who are also taking action on their estates.</p> <p>ECC is working with The Essex Partners and anchor institutions across Essex to establish a climate group to develop joint working in delivery of Commission recommendations</p>	Capital Priority Recommended £3m Estate Retrofit 2022/23-2025/26.		  		
Essex Design Guide Climate Change Net Zero Update	<p>At ECC we have worked with planning authorities across Essex to produce the Essex Design Guide for development in Essex. We are now updating this to ensure it reflects best practice in both net zero and climate resilient homes.</p> <p>The first phase of this work has been to align existing guidance material within a new thematic climate change heading. The second phase of work underway is to provide best practice advice on Climate Change which addresses the component of advice both the local authority officers and developers will use. This includes but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net Zero (carbon) Development 	£25,000 Revenue 2021/22. In addition supported by ECC resource in Economic growth team.				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthy Places (including Healthy Homes Standard) ○ Sustainability Design Guidance for example solar orientation ○ Delivering Garden Communities through TCPA principles ○ Cooling in Buildings and Public Places ○ Use of Smart Technology in Public Places e.g. reducing light pollution. ○ Delivering heritage retrofitting in development 					
Essex Design Guide Climate Change – Walkable Neighbourhoods Guidance best practice	A further section of the Design Guide is being written to provide best practice advice on Walkable Neighbourhoods- new neighbourhoods and streets designed to promote the use of walking, cycling and sustainable transport with the option of remote parking (includes commissioning of evidence base study)					
Green Skills Infrastructure Review	<p>We are undertaking a Green Skills Infrastructure Review for Essex so as to provide an in-depth analysis of the existing skills and training provision and how it meets the needs of employers, providers, residents, ECC and partners/stakeholders. Specifically, the review will spotlight ways we can use existing or new or improved skills infrastructure to support the delivery of the Commission recommendations.</p> <p>A joint Stakeholder Action Plan with resource implications will recommend next steps for ECC and partners.</p>	Drawdown from Climate Change Reserve £105,000 Revenue.				
Garden Communities	<p>ECC is working with planning authorities in Essex to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an evidence-based study, including a cost-benefit analysis, which examines the different ways to deliver a number of carbon saving scenarios through a combination of building fabric and technologies including net zero carbon in new development proposals, including Garden Communities. • Develop Local Plans Toolkit • Ensure that Garden Communities are built to the highest standards in terms of design, quality, and climate change adaptations. And make use of the Essex Design Guide Climate Change advice once completed. • Implement sustainable drainage solutions. • Deliver biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure gain. • Create walkable neighbourhoods and tree lined streets. • Deliver carbon zero new schools (primary and secondary) • Deliver localised energy solutions. 	Drawdown from Climate Change Reserve £30,000 Revenue.	 	  	  	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide quality sustainable modes of transport which maximise modal shift to ensure 50% of trips use sustainable modes. Deliver a long-term stewardship model that supports the quality of place created and is capable of sustaining this long term. 					
Prepare a Developers Climate Change Charter	<p>Work is underway by the Essex Developers Group and the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) to produce a pan-Essex Charter which sets out what the construction and development industry will commit to move towards carbon zero development in Essex. ECC are providing a system leadership role to help make this work happen.</p> <p>The aim is to have all major developers that operate in Essex to sign-up to the Climate Change Charter.</p>	The investment is ECC officer time and resource.				
Training for members and officers	Training to provide an overview of Climate Change and Planning related matters to Essex Planners and Members across the county. Additional training in the delivery of BREEAM Assessments. This work has been commissioned and will commence in November and funded from the first CMA draw-down.		  	  		
New- Establish Climate Action Planning Team to Build Back Better and help deliver on Net Zero new build recommendations.	<p>New Investment to establish a Climate Action Planning Team (CAPT) of specialists/experts within Planning to advise and support district officers as well as developers with new build housing and commercial standards, to deliver Net Zero. Climate Change planning policies and support with advice on planning applications, and support the performance of building post-development. This team will also help deliver on net zero carbon housing demonstrator/pilot projects in each district.</p> <p>This new investment will provide ECC capacity and specialist knowledge to work with District, Borough & City Councils and ECC as a developer focusing on planning, housing, and estate managers to provide good design and appropriate challenge and support so that new build and development proposals positively contribute to meeting our climate change targets.</p>	Revenue New Investment £699,000 2022/23-2025/26.	  	  	 	

7. Transport

We will deliver a step change in sustainable travel across the county, by growing passenger transport and active travel and will ensure we support the move towards net zero. All our work is delivered in partnership, either with districts, central

government or suppliers and is aligned with the transport priorities within Everybody's Essex.

Our approach is 'Avoid – Shift – Improve', avoiding unnecessary motor vehicle trips; encourage residents to shift to other more sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport; and improving the sustainability of those journeys which are essential such as improving bus provision and developing a strategy for electric charge points.

ECC has made great progress on delivering against our recommendations, most obviously through the development of 5 active travel schemes totalling ~£8M. The schemes will reallocate road space to make it easier to walk and cycle and have been designed in partnership with our districts. They will be delivered in Summer 2022.

We have also taken two proposals for famous congestion hotspot the Army & Navy junction out to public consultation. Rather than simply build another road junction for cars, we have focused on developing a solution for people, following best practice guidance for walking and cycling routes. This is being developed in conjunction with local MPs, Parish and City Council, the DfT, Essex Highways, Jacobs and Highways England.

We have introduced electric scooter trials, in partnership with a private operator, in 6 locations delivering near 500,000 trips, actively delivering modal shift from car and onto net zero alternatives.







We have launched Essex Pedal Power, in conjunction with Sport England, Tendring District Council, The Active Wellbeing Society, SELEP and Active Essex, - a community-based bike project giving 1,300 residents in Jaywick Sands and Clacton a new bike free of charge. The new inclusive programme aims to make cycling accessible for everyone providing access to employment, training and educational opportunities or key local services. We hope to roll this scheme out to other districts next year.






We have launched our Safer Greener Healthier and Stop Swap Go behaviour change campaigns, communicating our sustainable transport ambitions with residents.









Going forward, our priorities will be to develop Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plans for our districts, developing a long-term framework which will guide future investment in walking and cycling infrastructure.





We will be developing our Alternative Fuels strategy, rolling out electric charge points and electrifying the ECC car fleet.

We will also be developing our Bus Services Improvement Plan to rebuild the Essex bus network, reverse the long term decline in passengers, delivering modal shift from car and improving public health.

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims					
Active Travel	Active Travel includes dedicated cycleways, walkable neighbourhoods and school streets. We aim to encourage modal shift to	£4.75m ECC capital funding for cycle infrastructure						

	<p>active travel by improving cycling infrastructure to all stations and develop a coherent network across the county, increase walking through the development of walkable neighbourhoods and encourage active travel in young people through the creation of school streets.</p> <p>During Covid we introduced semi-permanent segregated cycle paths and we recently completed public consultations on five active travel schemes, worth £8M. These schemes will reallocate road space to provide more space for people walking and cycling, provide public realm improvements, and implement 10 school streets. The schemes will be implemented in Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Brentwood and Wickford by Summer 2022. These schemes were developed in partnership with the local districts, businesses, access groups and local residents.</p> <p>In addition ECC Is directly investing £x to develop new cycle paths across the county</p> <p>We launched our first Walking Strategy in September 2021.</p>	<p>£2.13m ECC capital funding: 100%</p> <p>Capital Grant £50,000 received 2020/21</p> <p>Revenue Grant received £919,000 2020/21</p> <p>Service Improvement Reserve £61,000 Revenue 2021/22.</p> <p>Active Travel Grant funding Rev: £2.42m Capital: £5.95m</p>				
Cycle Assets Renewal	The purpose of this programme is to ensure that existing cycle infrastructure is brought up to standard and is safe and fit for purpose and is therefore attractive to users. Capital investment for asset renewal of cycleways across the County – business case submitted to Capital Challenge on 20 th Sept	Capital Priorities Recommended £3.0m 2022/23-2025/26.		 		
Highways LED	<p>Complete replacement of all streetlighting lanterns with LED units which will result in a significant energy saving, and therefore carbon reduction. One year into the programme with 50,000 units replaced out of a lighting stock of 130,000 units. The programme has prioritised units where the greatest energy saving can be achieved.</p> <p>During Covid we introduced semi-permanent segregated cycle paths and we recently completed public consultations on five active travel schemes, worth £8M. These schemes will reallocate road space to provide more space for people walking and cycling, provide public realm improvements, and implement 10 school streets. The schemes will be implemented in Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Brentwood and Wickford by Summer 2022. These schemes were developed in partnership with the local districts, businesses, access groups and local residents.</p>	<p>Capital (Phase 2, 3, 4) Programme: £26.87m 2021/22-2024/25.</p> <p>ECC Funding: 100%</p>				

Warm Tarmac pilot	Essex Highways is trialling warm tarmac, which is hoped will become the standard material for inlay surfacing. This form of asphalt is better for the environment because it uses less energy when it is being mixed and laid. This one simple switch is expected to significantly reduce carbon emissions and work is underway to quantify this saving.	Within existing Capital Programme.				
Bus Back Better	<p>Essex County Council will shortly (by the end of October) publish its Bus Service Improvement Plan. This will set out how buses can help deliver Safer, Greener, Healthier travel in Essex. The plan sets out specific measures where Essex County Council (ECC) will work with the bus industry and other partners to deliver safer, greener, and healthier travel by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding the Essex bus network to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic • Developing an attractive, sustainable, and affordable bus network, offering an alternative to car use. • Reversing the long-term decline in passenger numbers, in absolute terms and as a modal share of all journeys. • Improving public health and addressing climate change by reducing pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), ozone (O3), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, produced by cars in Essex. <p>Switching your journey from car to bus, if it's not possible to walk or cycle, is a key way to reduce carbon emissions and help mitigate climate change. It is also an investment in your local community, economy and environment</p>	<p>Capital Priorities Recommended £500,000 2022/23. Revenue New Investment £884,000 2022/23-2025/26. Revenue Grant £443,000 2021/22.</p>				
Behaviour Change	New investment in the mobilisation of a wider behaviour change programme beyond current activity to help drive the Safer, Healthier, Greener ambition. Funds will be spent on behaviour change expertise to develop the evidence base and a campaign manager to work alongside them and the rest of PPH to ensure that everything we're delivering – be it potholes or cycle ways – are making Essex Safer, Greener & Healthier.	Revenue New Investment £450,000 2022/23.				
Transport & Parking Planning Policy	To provide ECC capacity to update Transport and Highways policies in line with emerging priorities from DfT, the new transport hierarchy and Climate Commission recommendations. This will take the form of multiple one-off projects.	Revenue New Investment £675,000 2022/23.				





Electric Vehicle Charging Network	<p>We are creating an alternative fuel strategy for Essex working with partners including anchor institutions across Essex to agree a plan for Essex. This is funded by the Climate Commission and will include electrifying the ECC fleet (below), developing a model for countywide charge point roll out and exploring alternative fuel for freight. The strategy will focus initially on on-street residential charge points, for those 40% of households who do not have access to off-street parking.</p> <p>Our objective is to ensure that for any trip which must be by road, is done so as sustainably as possible.</p>	Drawdown from Climate Change Reserve £200,000 Capital 2021/22.	 			
ECC Electric Fleet Pilot	We have conducted a Fleet Electrification Review to consider the path forward for ensuring vehicles used in delivering our services are all hybrid or electric and have committed to introducing EV into our own car lease fleet this year.	Drawdown from Climate Change Reserve £200,000 Capital 2021/22.				








8. Waste


In 'Our Plan for Essex' we have committed to *Minimise Waste* and reduce its environmental impacts, by supporting residents and businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling, and by working towards a more circular economy where we better protect our natural resources.

We have already committed to zero waste to landfill by 2030, through the delivery of waste reduction, enhanced recycling and sustainable disposal. We are relaunching our Recycling Centres by bringing this service in-house and focussing it on meeting local need and providing enhanced opportunities to reuse and recycle. Whilst our engagement with residents and partners thorough 'Love Essex' and the 'Blueprint for a Circular Economy' project is ensuring we are all better equipped to reduce waste and its environmental impacts.

Our focus on the future through the development of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex with our partners has begun. This will develop over the coming year and will provide the required framework for a generational shift in how we view and manage waste and the policies and approaches needed to deliver our ambition. This strategy will have tackling climate change at its core to ensure waste system design, procurement and operational approaches actively contribute to net zero targets.

	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims			
New Joint Municipal	To develop a future vision and approach for waste in Essex which aligns with the	Existing Revenue programme 2021/22-2024/25 £180,000 (external consultancy) for initial modelling and options appraisal.	 			

Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)	<p>ECAC recommendations to minimise waste, maximise recycling and embed a circular economy in Essex</p> <p>This joint strategy with the Essex Borough, City and District Councils will develop the strategic framework needed to deliver this vision. It will identify the policy, infrastructure and service requirements and implement the required action plan to deliver this.</p> <p>The initial assessment (during year one) will model different delivery options to enable a preferred approach to be identified and public consultation to occur.</p> <p>The strategy, policy changes and actions plan to deliver the strategy will be adopted and delivered during year 2.</p>				
Bio-waste Contract Procurement	<p>The purpose of this activity is to secure the necessary future treatment capacity for green garden waste and food waste generated in Essex and collected by Essex Councils.</p> <p>This will enable Essex to divert this waste away from disposal and meet the ECAC recommendation to ensure all biowaste is put to beneficial use by composting it or using it to generate bio-gas.</p>	<p>Delivery investment for the procurement is primarily existing officer time.</p> <p>Current Revenue programme 2021/22-2024/25 £26.29m (Bio-waste treatment costs)</p>			
Blueprint	<p>BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy is an Interreg-funded European project led by Essex County Council.</p> <p>The circular economy encourages the efficient use of resources when manufacturing products and the 'designing out' of waste from systems. It also promotes the re-use, repair, refurbishment and recycling of products for as long as possible with minimal waste. The project will support local authorities to move to a more circular economy by</p>	Grant Revenue 2020/21 £3.87m - across partnership. ECC £912,000 2021/22- 2023/24.	  		

	<p>identifying current barriers and developing a policy framework for adoption.</p> <p>The project will also support training opportunities to assist individuals and support organisations within the circular economy. ECC is the lead authority for the project working with multiple local authorities across UK & Europe.</p>					
Love Essex	<p>Love Essex is an initiative developed and shared by the Essex Waste Partnership – a collaboration of ECC, District, Borough and City Councils across Essex - to collaborate county-wide on the delivery of waste projects with residents, businesses and schools.</p> <p>The Love Essex programme aims to inspire behaviour change and encourage residents to reduce waste and litter. Love Essex campaigns supports reusable hygiene products, cloth nappies, recycling, composting and library of things projects across Essex. The team use social media platforms and the Love Essex website to engage along with community volunteering activities.</p>	<p>Current Programme £2.14m Revenue 2021/22-2024/25.</p> <p>Drawdown from Service Improvement Reserve £52,000 Revenue.</p>				

9. Community Engagement

9.1. Finance

Total financial commitments by way of Revenue New Investment for Engagement and Communications £1.57m to 2025/26. Spend will be incurred on charges for staff communication, social media and delivery and support roles. This amount also includes charges for marketing, ECAC event, website development, training and research costs.

9.2. Summary of Activity

ECC has developed a detailed communications strategy, taking a three-pronged approach to communications activity:

- Formal communications
- Stakeholder engagement
- Community engagement

We will communicate to traditional audiences (such as general public, media outlets) via regular channels (such as e-newsletters and media releases). This will primarily be one-way communication, pushing key messages out en-masse and be less labour intensive.

A media release will be issued after each Commission meeting detailing what has been discussed or agreed. The chair and other commissioners will be offered for interview. For any interviews secured, an interview briefing will be developed for the interviewee.

Also, under this prong, more formal social media activity will be undertaken via newly established ECAC accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which point traffic to and complement the Essex is Green work.

Key characteristics

- Develops overarching comms strategy and plan
- Develops and delivers key messages via 'traditional' channels
- Generally one-way broadcast of key messages with the exception of social media activity
- Commission's identity, design, employee comms and content support from central comms team
- Measures and evaluates comms activity

ECC has committed to working across the county to hit its net zero targets, by ensuring that the Council significantly reduces its carbon footprint whilst also supporting an acceleration in the progress towards sustainable housing and energy, and active and alternative forms of travel. It has committed to engaging with communities and businesses, providing advice and support to enable and empower local action.

The Commission recommended that we invest in research to identify Essex audience groups and develop more targeted communications. Extensive research to underpin future communications was undertaken in the first half of 2021 looking into the attitudes of Essex residents and their willingness to undertake action on climate change. This research has been shared across District, Borough and City Councils across Essex. Alongside this, there was a public consultation on many of the Commission's key recommendations, the results of which were published as the community engagement annexe to the Commission's report, [Net Zero – Making Essex Carbon Neutral](#).

The Commission recommended that an online resource be developed to enable individuals to take action on climate change and a website has been developed for this purpose: essexclimate.org.uk This acts as a growing resource for the community in Essex to understand how they can take action on climate.

ECC is working with the Essex Association of Local Councils, offering a series of climate-related webinars is helping to address the recommendation that local authorities should align on messaging around climate. The Net Zero Innovation Network has already been established, as recommended by the Commission to bring together businesses and anchor institutions to develop innovative climate solutions within the county.





ECC has started to develop climate action packs for specific groups such as residents, schools and businesses, to give practical advice on how each of us can play our part in tackling climate change. In September 2021 we also began rolling out a series of webinars to support town and parish councils in tackling climate change at a local level. By supporting others in taking action, we can make even faster progress towards our climate goals.



ECC continues to support the Essex is Green social media channels which are a collaboration between ECC, the Commission and local social media admins to enable more Essex residents to understand the work we are already doing to tackle climate change and learn how they too can become more involved in our journey to net zero.


Finally, just last month, ECC was proud to become official partners in Ashden's Let's Go Zero campaign to encourage schools across the county to become carbon zero by 2030.

These are some of the areas of communication (section 9.3) and community (section 9.4) we are already prioritising as we continue to consider the Commission's other recommendations relating to community engagement.





9.3. Communication and Education

Initiative	Description	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Advice Packs	We are producing advice packs aiming at different audiences explaining to them the impact climate change is having, what they can do about it and how to get involved. Initially we are producing packs for residents, schools and businesses.		 		
Low Carbon Bus Event	Wednesday 1 September saw the COP26 Carbon Battle Bus arrive in Essex, as it made its way across the country in the build-up to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, taking place in Glasgow in November. The bus stopped off at the GRIDSERVE Electric Forecourt in Braintree where an event was held by the Essex Climate Action Commission. The event showcased some of the action that is being		 		

	<p>taken both around the county and locally in Braintree in the fight against climate change.</p> <p>The event featured talks from Toddington Harper, Chief Executive at GRIDSERVE, alongside representatives from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council, Brentwood Borough Council and the Net Zero Innovation Network (NZIN).</p> <p>Following the completion of the event Cllr Kevin Bentley and Cllr Graham Butland, leaders of Essex County Council and Braintree District Council respectively, planted a tree on the GRIDSERVE site to symbolise the commitment to climate action around the county.</p> <p>A full recording of the event can be found on the Essex Climate Action Commission's YouTube channel.</p> <p>A further event at Gridserve took place on Oct 29 which brought together local government and business leaders from across the East of England.</p>				
Carbon App	<p>Essex Climate Action Commission is currently about to start the procurement process for a carbon counting app which tracks an individual's carbon footprint, suggests ways to reduce their carbon footprint and rewards actions by awarding carbon credits they take to mitigate the footprint.</p> <p>Retailers, hospitality and other relevant businesses in Essex would be encouraged to sign up to accept the carbon credits and provide an environmentally friendly reward. An ECC reward could be a free water butt or composting bin for example. A retailer could give a reusable coffee or water cup etc.</p> <p>Versions of the app would also be available to schools and businesses.</p> <p>The Commission aims to find a pre-existing app that we could white label.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why <p>We need to become a net zero county by 2050. Individual residents have a large role to play in helping us achieve that. The app would be a way to engage residents, schools and businesses and get data on who is doing what and measure the level of success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact <p>The app will engage and inform residents about small changes they can make to their daily life to offset their carbon footprint. It would reduce the county's carbon footprint It would give residents a way to engage and participate in climate change action It would encourage behaviour change It would reward positive behaviour</p>		 		

ECAC Website	Maintaining the Administration and Support of the ECAC website and Officer Time				
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9.4. Empowering our Communities

Initiative	Description	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Essex is Green & Essex Changemakers	Essex Is Green social media channels actively engage and inspire thousands of residents online to get involved and tackle climate change reaching over 10million newsfeeds since we launched last July and over 8000 followers since September 2021. Changemakers group was opened where over 100 Essex admins or local community group leaders could meet to work and learn together to achieve their shared goals of fighting climate change and improving the environment.				
Resident Research Work	Annual research to benchmark residents' attitudes to climate change and measure positive progress and attitudinal change among Essex residents				
Community Led Action	The new £500k Climate Action Challenge Fund for local community groups and schools, gives an opportunity for up to £20,000 of funding to deliver activities that respond to key climate challenges in Essex. Funding is available until March 2023 https://www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities				
EALC webinars	ECC is hosting a series of webinars for EALC members across the various themes of the Commission's work to help encourage and support action at parish and town council level. The series of workshops began in September 2021 and will be rolled out bi-monthly between now and July 2022				







10. Supporting Our Businesses


Essex County Council has made a strategic commitment in its organisation strategy (*Everyone's Essex*), to ensure that it delivers a Strong, Inclusive & Stable Economy, as well as a High Quality Environment. The strategy encompasses 20 commitments, including Good Jobs, Net Zero and Green Growth. Fostering, developing and sustaining green growth in the county is central to our strategy for regional economic growth.

Essex County Council is clear in its ambition to “develop Essex as a centre for innovation, supporting new technologies and business models to enable our economy to transition to net zero and secure green jobs for the future by ensuring we have the right local skills and drawing in investment opportunities”

This is supported by the work of the newly-established Net Zero Innovation Network, a group 30-plus businesses, academic institutions and public sector working collaboratively to develop a pipeline of delivery around the themes emerging from the Essex Climate Action Commission. Together the pipeline will ensure joined up working and help to secure funding opportunity to deliver transformational green projects.

Essex County Council is looking to support the growth of businesses within Essex enabling a thriving economy in the medium and long term. This means not only supporting green businesses but encouraging all business to be green. There are particular opportunities which will secure investment from Government and the private sector but only if we can produce the evidence and analysis to support the business cases/test cases needed. ECC will also need to lead the market showing the opportunity to business, via leveraging its purchasing power, and that of fellow anchor institutions to facilitate Green Business Growth within Essex.

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Net Zero Innovation Network (NZIN)	NZIN will bring together individuals from a wide range of education and business sectors across Essex. The aim is to support partnerships and drive innovation, helping Essex achieve its target of being a net zero carbon emissions county by 2050. The Network develop and deliver new projects which will be defined and owned by Network members. There is a particular focus on themes emerging from the Essex Climate Action Commission including: transport, energy, waste, the built environment, and land use and green infrastructure	Revenue New Investment £1.95m 2022/23-2025/26.				
Green Growth	Essex County Council is looking to support the growth of businesses within Essex enabling a thriving economy in the medium and long term. This means not only supporting green businesses but encouraging all business to be green. There are particular opportunities which will secure investment from Government and the private sector but only if we can produce the evidence and analysis to support the business cases/test cases needed. ECC will also need to lead the market showing the opportunity to business, via leveraging its purchasing power, and that of fellow anchor institutions to facilitate Green					

	Business Growth within Essex..					
Supporting Essex SMEs with green projects and reducing their carbon emissions	<p>Low Carbon Across the South East (LOCASE) ERDF grant funded programme helping businesses with 'green' projects such as energy efficiency or supporting SMEs in the low carbon sector.</p> <p>Since the programme started in 2016, £2.6m has been awarded to 397 businesses with an estimated 2,902 tonnes CO2 equivalent emissions reduction and £992,534 cost savings per annum within Greater Essex (including Southend and Thurrock). Further funding has been secured for the partnership to extend the delivery of support to SMEs until June 2023, with an expected £2.7m of grants available to Greater Essex businesses.</p>	<p>Grant: £6.4m funding (across the South East LEP)</p> <p>Drawdown from Service Improvement Reserve £38,000 Revenue 2021/22.</p>				

11. Evaluation and Monitoring

We are already committed to produce annual reports to track:

- Essex County Council's greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilience measures.
- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate reliance measures across Essex.

Aligning with the organisational strategy Everyone's Essex there will be a suite of KPI's supporting the high quality Environment strategic aim reporting on a quarterly basis.

We are in process in developing a waste strategy and reviewing service design and the lifecycle of waste.

We recognise we are just at the start of this process and are working towards developing an evaluation framework for individual climate action projects/ programmes. The objectives of this evaluation are to understand how these climate actions contribute towards achieving the Net Zero target.

12. Summary Finance Schedule

Below is a financial summary schedule combining all service areas taken from the Capital MTRS, Capital recommended priorities, External funding and new Revenue investments from the Climate Change reserve, Service Improvement reserve and Transformation reserve.

Capital amounts are based on the percentage allocation funded by ECC and are as at MTRS P5 Position with Climate selected as the primary outcome. Capital recommended priority items are not currently part of the capital programme and subject to review and approval.

Staff costs associated for teams working on Climate change activity is in addition to the costs below and amount to £1.96M per annum for c39 FTE.

Total external funding and financial commitment of £200.3m including external grant funding (subject to offer) and staff costs to 2025/26. This includes the request for additional revenue investment of £10.3m and Capital investment of £6.5m to 2025/26.

Finance view by Activity:

Financial Commitments - Prioritised

Financial Commitments - Prioritised			DRAFT MTRS				
	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Flood resilience	6,571		1,171	1,750	1,700	1,950	-
Highways LED Rollout (Phase 2/3/4)	26,870		6,506	7,547	7,547	5,270	-
Active Travel	2,137		1,656	481			
Cycling Infrastructure	4,750			750	2,000	2,000	
Electric Vehicle Strategy	400		200	200			
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Estate Retrofit Core	3,000		-	750	750	750	750
Bus Back Better	500		-	500	-	-	-
Cycling Assets Renewal	3,000		-	750	750	750	750
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Capital Excl Grants	47,228	-	9,533	12,728	12,747	10,720	1,500
Love Essex	2,141		678	480	488	495	-
Biowaste contracts	26,285		5,615	6,702	6,889	7,079	-
Compost Credits	8,330		1,961	2,040	2,122	2,207	-
Inter Authorisation Agreements	30,636		7,323	7,542	7,769	8,002	-
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Climate Team Staffing	699			206	206	206	81
Climate Communications & Engagement	1,566			495	558	432	81
Environment - Essex Forest Initiative	220			55	55	55	55
Highways - Request for Green Infrastructure maintenance reserve	1,925			220	330	550	825
Planning - Build ECC capacity to support new build standards across Essex	820			220	200	200	200
Essex Housing Hargrave House	640			640			
Transport - updating of transport policy for climate challenge	675			675			
Supporting our businesses - Sustainable growth, sector developmenta and Net Zero innovation	1,950			493	493	493	471
Supporting our Businesses - reduction carbon education	245		-	125	120	-	-
Transport - Behaviour Change; Safer, Healthier and Greener	450		-	450	-	-	-
Land Use and Green infrast- Local Nature Partnerships	267		-	89	89	89	-
Transport - Bus back better	884		-	221	221	221	221
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018			
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458				
Service team staff charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
Total Revenue Excl Grants	91,036	84	19,402	23,693	21,623	22,174	4,144
TOTAL Excl Grants	138,264	84	28,935	36,421	34,370	32,895	5,644
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Capital Externally Funded:							
Flood management REFCUS	6,547		1,147	1,750	1,700	1,950	-
Green Infrastructure Fund	2,500		-	-	500	1,000	1,000
Flood Alleviation Scheme - Env Agency	1,973		1,973	-	-	-	-
Decarbonisation Scheme 1	6,282		6,282	-	-	-	-
Decarbonisation Scheme 2	226		226	-	-	-	-
Decarbonisation Scheme 3	4,860		4,860	-	-	-	-
Low Carbon Skills fund	146		146	-	-	-	-
Green Homes Capital Grant - BEIS	776		776	-	-	-	-
Grant: £0.8m GHG LAD Phase 1a	800		800	-	-	-	-
Grant: £5.2m GHG LAD Phase 2	5,200		-	5,200	-	-	-
Grant: £17.2m Sustainable Warmth bid (outcome pending)	17,200		-	17,200	-	-	-
Window glazing grant	1,800		1,800	-	-	-	-
Active Travel - Dft	5,950		-	5,950	-	-	-
Essex Forest initiative - LA Treescape fund	300		300				
Capital Externally Funded	54,558	-	18,308	30,100	2,200	2,950	1,000
Total Capital Incl Grants	101,786	-	27,841	42,828	14,947	13,670	2,500
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018			
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458				
Revenue Externally Funded:							
Blue print Circular Economy Interreg France. Partnership	3,873		3,873	-	-	-	-
Clean Bus Tech Fund - Dft	443		443	-	-	-	-
Retrofit Academy	717		359	359			
Active Travel	2,419		2,419	-	-	-	-
Revenue Externally Funded	7,453	-	7,094	359	-	-	-
Total Revenue Incl Grants	88,065	45	24,533	22,029	19,540	20,029	1,934
Staff Team Charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
TOTAL Inc Grants	200,275	84	54,337	66,879	36,570	35,845	6,644

Finance view by funding stream:

Financial Commitments - Prioritised

	DRAFT MTRS						
	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Capital Excl Grants	47,228	-	9,533	12,728	12,747	10,720	1,500
Love Essex	2,141	7	678	480	488	495	-
Biowaste contracts	26,285		5,615	6,702	6,889	7,079	-
Compost Credits	8,330		1,961	2,040	2,122	2,207	-
Inter Authorisation Agreements	30,636		7,323	7,542	7,769	8,002	-
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Essex Plan Reserve	6,230	13	-	2,303	1,078	1,298	1,551
Climate Change Reserve	2,265	10	-	701	764	638	162
Transformation Reserve	695	3	-	575	120	-	-
Additional funding in MTRS	1,151	3	-	310	310	310	221
Revenue New Inv	10,341	29	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422	9	1,405	1,018	-	-	-
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458	-	-	-	-
Service team staff charges (existing ECC staff)	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
Total Revenue Excl Grants	91,036	84	19,402	23,692	21,623	22,174	4,144
TOTAL Excl Grants	138,264	84	28,935	36,420	34,370	32,895	5,644
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Capital Externally Funded	54,558	-	18,308	30,100	2,200	2,950	1,000
Total Capital Incl Grants	101,786	-	27,841	42,828	14,947	13,670	2,500
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018	-	-	-
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458	-	-	-	-
Revenue Externally Funded:							
Blue print Circular Economy Interreg France. Partnership	3,873		3,873	-	-	-	-
Clean Bus Tech Fund - Dft	443		443	-	-	-	-
Active Travel	2,419		2,419	-	-	-	-
Retrofit Academy	717		359	359	-	-	-
Revenue Externally Funded	7,453	-	7,094	359	-	-	-
Total Revenue Incl Grants	88,065	45	24,533	22,029	19,540	20,029	1,934
Service team staff charges (existing ECC staff)	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
TOTAL Inc Grants	200,275	84	54,337	66,879	36,570	35,845	6,644

The breakdown of external funding is shown below.

EXTERNAL FUNDING - MTRS / PIPELINE	DRAFT MTRS						
	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Capital Externally Funded							
MTRS	6,547	-	1,147	1,750	1,700	1,950	-
Pipeline	48,012	-	17,162	28,350	500	1,000	1,000
Total External Capital	54,558	-	18,308	30,100	2,200	2,950	1,000
MTRS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Inv	7,453	-	7,094	359	-	-	-
Total External Revenue	7,453	-	7,094	359	-	-	-
Total External Funding	62,011	-	25,402	30,459	2,200	2,950	1,000

The table below is a breakdown of costs for prioritised initiatives by service area and inclusive of grants:

	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Land Use & Green Infrastructure							
Total Capital	17,890		4,590	3,500	3,900	4,900	1,000
Total Revenue	3,228	5	400	780	474	694	880
Total Land Use and Green Infrastructure	21,118	5	4,991	4,280	4,374	5,594	1,880
Waste							
Total Capital	-		-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	71,316	7	19,501	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Total Waste	71,316	7	19,501	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Energy							
Total Capital	35,489		13,089	22,400	-	-	-
Total Revenue	961	2	520	346	95	-	-
Total Energy	36,450	2	13,609	22,746	95	-	-
Built Environment							
Total Capital	4,800	-	1,800	750	750	750	750
Total Revenue	1,590	3	130	860	200	200	200
Total Built Environment	7,107	3	2,289	1,969	950	950	950
Transport							
Total Capital	43,607	-	8,362	16,178	10,297	8,020	750
Total Revenue	5,097	6	3,006	1,428	221	221	221
Total Transport	48,704	6	11,368	17,606	10,518	8,241	971
Supporting our Businesses							
Total Capital	-		-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	2,195	10	-	618	613	493	471
Total supporting our Businesses	2,195	10	-	618	613	493	471
Communication and Education							
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	2,332	10	302	560	669	638	162
Total Communication and Education	2,332	10	302	560	669	638	162
Community Engagement							
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	629	2	314	314	-	-	-
Total Community Engagement	629	2	314	314	-	-	-
check	-						
Team Staff charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
TOTAL	200,275	84	54,337	66,879	36,570	35,844	6,644

Revenue investments requested from Reserves are captured against the following activities and financial years.

	Total	DRAFT MTRS			
		£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
New Investment included in Total Commitments					
Essex Plan Reserve					
Environment - Essex Forest Initiative	220	55	55	55	55
Highways - Request for Green Infrastructure maintenance reserve	1925	220	330	550	825
Planning - Build ECC capacity to support new build standards across Essex	820	220	200	200	200
Essex Housing Hargrave House	640	640			
Transport - updating of transport policy for climate challenge	675	675			
Supporting our businesses - Sustainable growth, sector developmenta and Net Zero inno	1950	493	493	493	471
	6230	2303	1078	1298	1551
Additional funding in MTRS					
Land Use and Green infrastructure - Local Nature Partnerships	267	89	89	89	-
Transport - Bus back better	884	221	221	221	221
	1,151	310	310	310	221
Climate Change Reserve					
Climate Team Staffing	699	206	206	206	81
Climate Communications & Engagement	1,566	495	558	432	81
	2,265	701	764	638	162
Transformation Reserve					
Supporting our Businesses - reduction carbon education	245	125	120	0	0
Transport - Behaviour Change; Safer, Healthier and Greener	450	450	0	0	0
	695	575	120	-	-
Total	10,341	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934