





# Environment Council Plan Actions with Milestones Performance Monitoring Report Q1 23/24

Generated on: 17 August 2023


	EC1.1	Set up a 2030 Core Group to provide high level strategic overview on delivery, identify funding opportunities and develop communication and community engagement			75%																																																						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Managed By</td> <td colspan="2">Brendan Cleere</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assigned To</td> <td>Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs</td> <td>Due Date</td> <td colspan="3">31-Mar-2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latest Note</td> <td colspan="5"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6"> <p>Q1 2023/4</p> <p>Community Engagement Board (CEB) is now well established. As the current facilitation contract is due to finish, a review of the 2030 CEB has been contributed to by all its members. Headlines of this can be found on SDC website, but the main findings are about the value of the group and in particular how important facilitation has been. We are now using this information to plan the next cycle of 2030 CEB which includes earmarking budget to repeat the facilitated process with some new group members.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Milestones</td> <td>Due Date</td> <td>Completed Date</td> <td colspan="3">Note</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1.1.1 Establish the Community Engagement Board with a cross-section of community members.</td> <td>31-Mar-2022</td> <td>10-Oct-2022</td> <td colspan="3">Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1.1.2 Community Governance Group work plan identified and reviewed quarterly by Spring 2022</td> <td>31-Mar-2023</td> <td></td> <td colspan="3">CEB have identified action areas on engine idling, carbon conversations, school and their communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1.1.3 Community Governance Group progress to plan included to 2030 annual reporting to Full Council in October</td> <td>31-Mar-2022</td> <td>10-Oct-2022</td> <td colspan="3">Completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC1.1.4 Participation in Climate Leadership Gloucestershire Group and leader / convenor of retrofit theme (C)</td> <td>31-Mar-2024</td> <td>10-Oct-2022</td> <td colspan="3">Completed. CLG updates are routinely reported to Environment Cttee</td> </tr> </table>						Managed By	Brendan Cleere					Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs	Due Date	31-Mar-2024			Latest Note						<p>Q1 2023/4</p> <p>Community Engagement Board (CEB) is now well established. As the current facilitation contract is due to finish, a review of the 2030 CEB has been contributed to by all its members. Headlines of this can be found on SDC website, but the main findings are about the value of the group and in particular how important facilitation has been. We are now using this information to plan the next cycle of 2030 CEB which includes earmarking budget to repeat the facilitated process with some new group members.</p>						Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note			EC1.1.1 Establish the Community Engagement Board with a cross-section of community members.	31-Mar-2022	10-Oct-2022	Completed			EC1.1.2 Community Governance Group work plan identified and reviewed quarterly by Spring 2022	31-Mar-2023		CEB have identified action areas on engine idling, carbon conversations, school and their communities			EC1.1.3 Community Governance Group progress to plan included to 2030 annual reporting to Full Council in October	31-Mar-2022	10-Oct-2022	Completed			EC1.1.4 Participation in Climate Leadership Gloucestershire Group and leader / convenor of retrofit theme (C)	31-Mar-2024	10-Oct-2022	Completed. CLG updates are routinely reported to Environment Cttee		
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	EC1.2	Establish the performance management of the 2030 Strategy across the organisation to monitor and review progress towards the Strategy's aims and commitments			100%																																																						

Managed By	Brendan Cleere		
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs	Due Date	31-Dec-2022
Latest Note	Annual reporting of progress against all areas of the strategy is taking place and a strategic review of the current approach to performance management of the strategy will be undertaken in 2024.		
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
	EC1.5	Explore and progress additional projects for carbon reduction and /or biodiversity net gain and funding opportunities to deliver them.	25%
Managed By	Brendan Cleere		
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs	Due Date	31-Mar-2026
Latest Note	Please see carbon reduction and bio-diversity related projects reported elsewhere and in Environment Cttee Q report (eg in waste, transport and biodiversity sections). 2030 team is currently focusing on delivery of funded projects on retrofit and decarbonisation.		
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
EC1.5.1 Money leveraged through successful funding bids and level of associated council investment approved by Councillors £s (ongoing 2026)	31-Mar-2025		Key funding successes reported in 2030 Annual Report (Environment Cttee March 2023).
	EC2.1	Develop a district Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2030 commitment NE7) & seek opportunities for re-wilding to boost biodiversity in partnership with landowners, businesses, the farming community, parish & town councils & local environmental organisations	30%
Managed By	Mark Russell		
Assigned To	Conrad Moore	Due Date	31-Mar-2024

Latest Note

Quarter 1. Working with Gloucestershire CC as the Lead Authority in developing the LNRS. Rebecca Charley (Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Lead) is sitting on the steering Group for the LNRS which has regularly met. Steering Group has commissioned work to produce County wide Interim Advice on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for officers, developers and agents to ensure consistency of approach in Gloucestershire. It is interim as National Government has not yet published their secondary legislation.

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
EC2.1.1 District document developed, aligned with Gloucestershire Nature Recovery Strategy	31-Mar-2023		Gloucestershire LNRS will be drafted over the coming months but not finalised until Sept '24. SDC action plan will be developed alongside this.
EC2.1.2 Progress on recreation and mitigation strategy works for the Severn Estuary, Rodborough Common and Cotswold Beechwoods	31-Mar-2024		Workshops with key stakeholders on Severn Estuary this Autumn will formulate a future mitigation strategy and zone of influence (anticipated to be approved this Winter). Cotswolds Beechwoods mitigation strategy is now in operation. As a new Severn Estuary Mitigation Strategy is progressed, a governance structure will need to be proposed with relevant Gloucestershire Councils.

	EC2.2	Deliver the natural flood management project (Stroud Rural SUDS) for the Frome Valley in Stroud in partnership with the Environment Agency, working closely with landowners and communities using innovative flood management techniques.	52%
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Managed By	Sarah Clark	
Assigned To	Maria Hickman	Due Date 31-Mar-2026

Latest Note

Between April and June is good time of year for planning works, relationship and network building and focussing on communications. Constructing interventions takes a back seat due to regulatory issues such as protection of wild birds and restrictions on working on grasslands. The project officer has been working to influence the Local Nature Recovery strategy process and undertaken training in Biodiversity Net Gain. Both will be key mechanisms for funding the work in the future. We also received confirmation that the project officer successfully completed a BASIS qualification in soils and water at the Royal Agricultural University.

May saw the completion of the Comic, which was jointly funded by SDC and an EU initiative. The comic tells the story of flooding, and the link to river restoration and NFM and will be published over the summer. Several new landowners have been engaged in the project, including a large rewilding project in Sapperton and a farm above Horsley. During the dry warm weather, we were able to implement one project in the upper Slad valley, where we co-funded new electric fencing to keep livestock out of the Dillay Brook and install spring fed drinking troughs instead. This will not only prevent large amounts of soil and silt from entering the brook and causing flooding and environmental issues downstream, but it creates an extensive area of stream side habitat. (1.4Ha)

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note


	EC2.3	Develop and establish an action plan to Increase our tree canopy, woodland and forestry in line with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Tree Strategy ambition for 20% canopy cover across the County by 2030	30%
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Managed By	Mark Russell		
Assigned To	Conrad Moore	Due Date	31-Mar-2023
Latest Note			

Quarter 1 - Conrad Moore

This will be reviewed and form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (EC 2.1)

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
EC2.3.1 Increase canopy cover in Stroud District, towards the target of 20% county wide coverage by 2030 (interim targets for Stroud District will be identified)	31-Mar-2024		This will be reviewed and likely form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy that is now being undertaken (EC2.1)

	EC2.4	Work with partners to protect and enhance green spaces in residential neighbourhoods and town centres, promote 'No Mow May' and adopt best practice for road verges to encourage wildflowers and reduce pesticide use	50%
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Managed By	Ange Gillingham		
Assigned To	Andy Kefford; Mike Towson	Due Date	31-Mar-2024
Latest Note			

Q1 update (Mike Towson - 21/08/23)

No Mow May expanded in 2023. Work is also underway to consider longer term alterations to grounds maintenance and in particular a change to less frequent grass cutting, where this might be appropriate.

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
EC2.4.1 Development of a green spaces policy / strategy and implementation of action plan, conforming with the draft new Local Plan policies and thresholds on green	31-Mar-2023		Agreement reached that the strategy will form part of the county wide Nature Recovery Strategy. RC will lead on an action plan for SDC that will echo the broader county strategy. Expansion of now mow May under


infrastructure.			consideration for 2024.
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	EC2.5	Use the Building with Nature standards for key regeneration sites across the district	60%
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Managed By	Brendan Cleere		
Assigned To	Ali Fisk; Mark Russell	Due Date	31-Mar-2026
Latest Note			

Quarter 1 2023/24 - The output specification for Brimscombe Port includes using the Building with Nature Standards. The Draft Local Plan requires the standard for the proposed new settlements and strongly recommends it for other strategic sites.

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note


	EC3.5	Develop planning policies and developer guidance to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard.	50%
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Develop planning policies and developer guidance to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard.


Managed By	Brendan Cleere		
Assigned To	Mark Russell	Due Date	30-May-2024
Latest Note			

Quarter 1 2023/24 - Council officers discussed the draft planning policies with the Local Plan Inspector at the examination hearing session on 24 May 2023.

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
EC3.5.1 Develop Policy and guidance by 2023	30-May 2024		Quarter 1 2023/24 - Council officers discussed the draft planning policies with the Local Plan Inspector at the examination hearing session on 24 May 2023. Guidance will be produced once the policies have been approved.

	EC4.1	Work with GCC and through the new Cycling & Walking Strategy Task & Finish Group to develop and implement three Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for Stroud; Cam, Dursley and Uley; Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood,			100%
Support safe cycling, and identify and prioritise the main strategic cycling routes within the district.					
Managed By	Mark Russell				
Assigned To	Simon Maher	Due Date	31-Mar-2023		
Latest Note					
Quarter 1 - Simon Maher (Aug 2023)					
LCWIPs for Stroud and Cam, Dursley and Uley have been prepared and published. Officers are supporting GCC to prepare a county wide "rural" LCWIP					
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note		
EC4.1.1 T&F group to recommend a prioritisation methodology to allocate funding for cycling and walking projects by March 2022	31-Mar-2022	31-Mar-2022	Completed		
EC4.1.2 Allocate funding to deliver improved and new priority strategic and local walking and cycling schemes by March 2023	31-Mar-2024	13-Jul-2023	Following an increase to the Walking and Cycling capital budget for 23/24, approximately £300k of funding has been committed to strategic and local walking and cycling projects, with more in the pipeline. This action will continue beyond the assigned completion date.		
EC4.1.3 Provide input to GCC to aid the production of LCWIPs (C)	31-Mar-2024	13-Jul-2023	No update on countywide rural LCWIP. Action to be continued. Preliminary discussion about a county wide rural LCWIP being proposed by GCC		
EC4.1.4 Prioritise main strategic walking and cycling routes within the district, including accessibility (C)	31-Mar-2024	13-Jul-2023	Preliminary design work for Cam-Dursley Greenway and Cainscross Road completed by GCC using funding from the capital budget and CIL. This will be made available imminently. Further funding towards detailed design of Standish Greenway which will form part of the Stroud-Gloucester strategic link, is being examined. This action will continue beyond the assigned completion date.		
EC4.1.5 Identify local cycling and walking routes which link to, or will help to deliver strategic routes (C)	31-Mar-2024	13-Jul-2023	Several local projects have been identified and funded, with continued effort to identify more local deliverable projects.		

			This action will continue beyond the assigned completion date.
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	EC4.2	In partnership with GCC encourage the expansion and improvement of public transport and links to walking and cycling routes – to include bus services and railway stations and services, and bids for new facilities that benefit residents	33%
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Managed By	Mark Russell		
Assigned To	Simon Maher; Conrad Moore	Due Date	31-Mar-2026
Latest Note			

Quarter 1 - Conrad Moore 01/06/23)


Promoting sustainable transport policies and the improvement of rail and bus services as part of growth proposals in Local Plan – hearing sessions held March 2023. Awaiting approval from the Local Plan Inspectors. Signed with GCC and District/Boroughs a Statement of Shared Intent re: Decarbonisation for Gloucestershire - to promote sustainable passenger transport networks and active travel routes. Provided feedback to County Highways on the creation of a network of Transport Hubs.


Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
EC4.2.1 Publicity/information campaign promoting the use of public transport and links to active travel across the district	31-Mar-2024		Discussions taking place with County regarding both future active travel and creation of a network of transport hubs that link city, towns and rural hinterlands for potential investment in the County.
EC4.2.2 Submission of strategic outline business case to Department for Transport for the reopening of Stonehouse Bristol Road station by September 2022	30-Sep-2022	Sept 2022	Completed in Sept 2022. Government announcement awaited (anticipated before end 2023)
EC4.2.3 Development of a prioritised programme of investment in walking and cycling projects by March 2022	31-Mar-2022	01-Apr-2022	Completed.


	EC4.3	Working with partners, expand the network of Electric Vehicle charging points and increase support for low carbon transport , and a reduction in private car use and explore measures to reduce air pollution such as no-idling zones.	0%	
Managed By	Ange Gillingham			
Assigned To	Mike Towson	Due Date	31-Mar-2026	
Latest Note				
Report going to Env Committee in Sep 23 outlining full financials for previously proposed rollout.				
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note	
EC4.3.1 Low Carbon Transport Strategy with agreed targets in place • Quarterly reporting to targets in the Low Carbon Transport Strategy	31-Mar-2023		See EC4.3 update. Outcome will be an SDC EV Strategy.	


	EC5.1	Further reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste and minimise its environmental impact.	25%	
Managed By	Ange Gillingham			
Assigned To	Mike Towson	Due Date	31-Mar-2026	
Latest Note				
Waste Education Officer role expected to start by October 2023. This officer will drive resident engagement and the provision of additional materials to be collected at the kerbside.				
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note	





	EC5.2	Work with our partner Ubico to identify joint opportunities for carbon reduction projects in household collection and management of public spaces.	20%	
Managed By	Ange Gillingham			
Assigned To	Mike Towson	Due Date	31-Mar-2025	
Latest Note				
Committee/Council agreed to capital investment and additional revenue budget use for the use of HVO. This is expected to be introduced by the end of 2023.				
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note	


	EC5.3	Support the phasing out of single use plastics in the district and encourage and support local initiatives to 'reduce, repair and recycle'.	40%	
Managed By	Ange Gillingham			
Assigned To	Mike Towson	Due Date	31-Mar-2023	
Latest Note				
Q1 update				
Member and officer session has taken place to drive further improvements from an SDC facilities perspective. Facilities managers have audited and identified areas for potential improvement. A Member Information Sheet was published previously with a press release also referring to the work undertaken to date.				
Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note	
EC5.3.1 Local initiatives identified and promoted to reduce, reuse and recycle	31-Mar-2026		Frequent county wide campaigns continue via the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership, providing campaigns on key themes, identified by officers.	

	EC5.4	Continue to increase recycling rates across the district.			20%
Managed By	Ange Gillingham				
Assigned To	Mike Towson	Due Date	31-Mar-2026		
Latest Note					
Q1 Update					
Council tax leafleting used to remind residents of correct recycling. This has had a positive impact and will be complemented with more consistent resident communications, with the introduction of the Waste Education Officer. No further update on Government White Paper, expected imminently. Delay is stalling vehicle procurement which is stalling the introduction of additional materials being introduced for collection at the kerbside.					
Milestones		Due Date	Completed Date	Note	
EC5.4.1 Introduction of an additional material at the kerbside		31-Mar-2024		New Waste Education Officer to drive this work forward, although somewhat dependant on white paper re: recycling consistency.	

	EC6.1	Continue to increase renewable generation in the district and to decarbonise existing networks, and support community-owned renewable energy schemes			60%
Managed By	Brendan Cleere				
Assigned To	Brendan Cleere; Georgia Spooner; Jenny Youngs	Due Date	31-Mar-2026		
Latest Note					
Quarter 1 update					
Focus this quarter has been on improving the energy efficiency of the Council's Leisure Centres (Stratford Park and The Pulse) and The Museum in the Park. A main contractor has been appointed and works are scheduled to begin in late 2023 with completion by end Jan 2024. At a wider community level the new Local Plan that is currently at 'Examination' stage includes policies and allocations to increase renewable generation across the district.					

	EC6.2	Deliver the water source heat pump projects at Ebley and Brimscombe Port Mills	<div style="width: 100%; height: 15px; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">100%</div>
Managed By			
Andrew Cummings			
Assigned To		Due Date	31-Mar-2022
Ali Fisk			
Latest Note			
<b>-Progress:</b> WSHP's installed and commissioned			

	EC6.3	Increase the proportion of Council and partner fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon technologies.	<div style="width: 20%; height: 15px; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">20%</div>
Managed By			
Ange Gillingham			
Assigned To		Due Date	31-Mar-2026
Mike Towson			
Latest Note			
Strategy for renewal agreed at Env Committee with financial details to come to Sept 2023 meeting/ Smaller EV vehicles will be complemented by the use of low carbon HVO fuel for Refuse Collection Vehicles, as a transitional fuel.			
Milestones		Due Date	Completed Date
			Note

	ER5.1	Progress the Local Plan through public examination and secure its adoption.	<div style="width: 0%; height: 15px; background-color: #4F81BD; color: white; text-align: right; padding-right: 5px;">0%</div>
Managed By			
Brendan Cleere			
Assigned To		Due Date	31-Dec-2023
Mark Russell			
Latest Note			
Quarter 1 2023/24 - The draft Local Plan is progressing through public examination. The Inspectors have held further hearing sessions on all draft allocated sites during May-June 2023. Final sessions are to be held in the autumn 2023. On the assumption the Inspector is prepared to approve an amended Plan, potential modifications may be subject to public consultation during the autumn/winter 2023 before adoption in 2024.			

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
ER5.1.1 Local Plan recommended for adoption by Government Inspector	30-May 2024		Quarter 1 2023/24 – Progress as reported in note immediately above
ER5.1.2 Local Plan adopted within 3 months of receiving the Inspector's Report	30-May 2024		Progress towards adoption as reported above.


	ER5.2	Support the delivery of strategic site allocations contained within the local plan and the key infrastructure required to support it.	<input type="text" value="0%"/>
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Managed By	Brendan Cleere		
Assigned To	Mark Russell	Due Date	31-Mar-2026
Latest Note			

Quarter 1 2023/24 - Council officers have been working with site promoters to support the sites at the public examination. Hearing sessions on all sites were held during May-June 2023. The Council is also responding to formal scoping and pre-application requests through the development management process. A small number of planning applications on strategic sites have been submitted and are being considered.

Milestones	Due Date	Completed Date	Note
ER5.2.1 Number of houses built and hectareage of employment land developed annually compared with Local Plan requirements	31-Mar-2026		Quarter 1 2023/24 - The number of homes and employment land delivered annually are set out in the Housing and Employment Land Availability Reports. The 2022/23 Housing and Employment Land Availability Reports will be published by September 2023.

	ER5.3	Work with parish councils to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders to meet local development needs.		25%
Managed By				
Mark Russell				
Assigned To				
Simon Maher		Due Date		31-Mar-2026
Latest Note				
<p>Q1 2023/4 update:</p> <p>6 NDPs are currently progressing or under review: Slimbridge, and Brimscombe and Thrupp have submitted their draft NDPs and will progress to a final 6 week consultation and examination. Standish and Bisley are progressing to the first public consultation phase. Stroud and Stonehouse are currently being reviewed.</p>				
Milestones		Due Date	Completed Date	Note
ER5.3.1 Number of Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders progressed or reviewed		31-Mar-2026		6 NDPs are in progress, as noted above.