

Appendix A

Council Plan Progress Report

KEY

Progressing	Action started and on track, in most cases to be delivered by the original deadline but in some cases an extension or amendment is proposed to reflect the work being undertaken and to allow for continued reporting of progress
Completed	The action is fully complete and/or operational
Known delays	Action has some risk/delay or is behind the original schedule
Will not be met	Action will not be met for reasons outlined in the comments

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING:
Strengthening and supporting our communities so people feel included and connectes

CW1 Community resilience: Support communities to help each other and build resilience through a network of community hubs and other community-led networks, with mental and physical health and wellbeing at its heart

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
CW1.1	Develop community led networks and community hubs across the district by helping communities to develop their own networks and hubs, connecting smaller and larger hubs and providing support and training	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Progressing	2024	Revised action in the refreshed Council Plan reflects the ongoing development of this area of work and includes the development of a framework for CV&SE sector.
CW1.2	Act to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people in the district through delivery of a new 3 year Health and Wellbeing Plan	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Progressing	2024	This work is ongoing and it is recommended that the deadline is extended to allow for continued reporting and performance management of this action.
CW1.3	Ensure residents continue to receive the advice they need, by continuing our work in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau and developing a new Service Level Agreement	Community Services & Licensing	Keith Gerrard	Completed	2022	Action is complete and operational and it is recommended that this action is closed and a performance indicator is put in place to monitor the number of referrals to the Citizens Advice Bureau.
CW1.4	Work to reduce the impacts and causes of anti-social behaviour by developing a district wide policy in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Known delays	2022	Change in management in Community Services has delayed progress of this action. This work is now on track although behind schedule and a refreshed end date will allow for a longer time period for completion.
CW1.5	Appoint Food Justice Champions to work with partners to tackle food injustice, set up a food partnership and develop a food strategy to address the causes of food poverty, promote sustainability and food justice	Community Services & Licensing	Emma Keating-Clark	Known delays	2022	The Food Champion Workstream was superseded by the Cost of Living Working Group and work towards the Gloucestershire goal to achieve 'Sustainable Food Place' Status is underway. It is recommended that this action is refocused to support the work programme of "Feeding Gloucestershire", including County and Stroud district objectives and to reflect the work being done to deliver the cost of living crisis food support.

DELIVERED:

- Support is being provided to 11 busy Community Hubs across the district. Partners involved in running and funding the Community Hubs are working together on the next phase of the network development. In March 2023, £35k COMF funding for food work was paid to 10 Community Hubs delivering Cost of Living crisis food support. To support the Hub challenges, we will be developing and implementing a community, voluntary and social enterprise sector action plan, addressing communication and advocacy, financial resilience and community hub support.
- The Health and Wellbeing Plan was developed and adopted in September 2022. In partnership with Active Gloucestershire we secured funding for a schools Physical Activity Officer for 1 year as part of the We Can Move Programme. Also in partnership with Active Gloucestershire, "We Can Move" funding has been secured for an Activity on Referral Coordinator to develop active lifestyles for young people aged 7-19years. In partnership with the Severn Primary Care Network we have appointed a Link Social Prescribing Manager.
- Other initiatives such as the Children and Young People's Eating Disorder Project and the Reading Well Forum have proven to have a positive impact.
- A Service Level Agreement for Citizens Advice was signed by both parties in early 2023 and we are working well in partnership.

CW2 Affordable homes: Build affordable, energy efficient homes and deliver high quality services for all tenants by investing in the renovation of existing council homes and meet a range of housing needs for those who experience disadvantage and creating a culture of tenant engagement and empowerment

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
CW2.1	Deliver new affordable homes, through planning policy, partners, housing associations and via our own New Homes Programme, to deliver EPC-A rated properties in line with our Strategy for New Council Homes 2020-2024	Housing	Pippa Stroud	Progressing	2024	The refreshed Council Plan splits this action into two for better co-ordination and reporting of activity and progress and extended deadline is also recommended to reflect the continued delivery of affordable homes across the district.
CW2.2	Invest £30m over the next 5 years to repair, maintain and invest in current council housing stock and bring empty council homes back into use as soon as possible	Housing	Tara Skidmore	Progressing	2026	Minor amendments proposed to the wording of this action.
CW2.3	Prioritise the prevention of homelessness by delivering the Next Steps Accommodation Programme and invest in temporary accommodation and specialist support, including working with partners countywide to develop the specialist housing and support	Housing	Pippa Stroud	Progressing	2024	The Next Steps Accommodation Programme has been delivered and the refreshed action reflects this.
CW2.4	Provide more opportunities for resident involvement in housing decisions through delivery of the Charter for Social Housing Residents and our continuing commitment to build on resident involvement opportunities	Housing	Michelle Elliott	Progressing	2023	Minor amendments proposed to the wording of this action to strengthen the focus on providing robust engagement principles and mechanisms for tenants to be involved in decision making.
CW2.5	Continue to invest and deliver the programme to modernise our Independent Living homes for older people	Housing	Alison Fisk	Completed	Ongoing	This action is now operational and has been replaced with a revised action focused on the delivery of the Independent Living Strategy 2023-2027.

DELIVERED:

- The new Stroud Local Plan is currently in the Examination in Public process which is expected to conclude in early Autumn with the Plan fully adopted in 2024. The Local Plan includes policies that underpin the delivery of new affordable homes on market housing sites.
- The New Homes Programme has progressed well with targets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 achieved. This included delivery of new homes at Ringfield Close, Nailsworth and Broadfield Road, Eastington. Demolition of Gloucester Street/Bradley Street, Glebelands and Cambridge House was completed on time in July 2023 and the contractor selection is currently being finalised following a successful tender. In February 2023 additional budget of £5.4m was approved by Council to deliver the remainder of the New Homes Programme following a sharp increase in the cost of construction and labour.
- The Government's Next Steps Accommodation Programme has now concluded; we purchased three properties through the Programme for vulnerable rough sleepers. Works at Minister's House in Stroud by Gloucester City Homes has completed and it is now available for occupation. We are looking to expand our 'Housing-Led' process which accommodates people with complex needs in ordinary tenancies with wrap-around support, in partnership with Tenant Services.
- Tenant engagement events are held regularly and attendance has improved in 2023 compared to 2022. Opportunities for tenant engagement include Cafe Conversations, Estate Walkabouts, Housing Hub sessions and the tenant satisfaction (STAR) survey. The Independent Living Community Hubs continue to thrive. There are 2 Tenants Voice representatives who attend Housing Committee and put forward themes and issues raised by tenants. There is also a tenant who is a participant on the National Social Housing Quality Panel.
- All three Independent Living schemes planned to be modernised during 2022/23 were completed. Hamfallow Court was pushed back slightly to allow for retrofit and planned maintenance works, however works are now completed.

CW3 Strengthen local democracy: by developing a culture of community engagement to enable greater involvement of residents, council tenants, communities and businesses in decisions on council services and priorities

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
CW3.1	Develop a Community Engagement Strategy, which incorporates the Council's Hear by Right Commitment for young person's involvement, and ensures the voice of the community and key stakeholders is at the heart of council priorities	Community Services & Licensing	Sarah Clark	Known delays	2023	Change in management in Community Services and workstream lead for Community Connections has delayed progress. This work is now on track although behind schedule and a refreshed end date will allow for a longer time period for completion.
CW3.2	Improve customer service for residents by procuring a Digital Platform ensuring an easier access to services and that provides support for those with complex needs	Strategy & Resources/Community Services & Licensing	Adrian Blick	Completed	2023	This action is now operational and it is recommended to be replaced with an action focusing on development of the Digital Platform and the Customer Contact Centre.
CW3.3	Work with Town and Parish Councils to develop, agree and implement a new strategic approach for partnership working between district, towns and parishes including specific support for rural communities.	Strategy & Resources/Community Services & Licensing	Hannah Emery	Completed	2022	This action is complete and operational. It is recommended that this action is close and a performance indicator is put in place to monitor the number of Town/Parish Councils signed up to the Charter and an annual performance indicator measuring satisfaction with the Charter
CW3.4	Provide dedicated support to communities for the registration of community assets so communities have more control and ownership of local buildings, land and community shops as well as protecting publicly owned land and assets	Strategy & Resources	Simon Maher	Progressing	2023	Minor amendments have been proposed to this action to make it more proactive and encourage the registration of assets.

DELIVERED:

- The Digital Platform was procured in December 2021 and a roadmap for implementation was developed to focus on prioritisation of processes that deliver efficiencies in order to better enable the MTFP target achievement. All waste and recycling processes are now available for residents to use online and process mapping is continuing across the council to identify other areas for self-service. A Customer Contact Vision has been approved and 2 contact services have been centralised to Customer Services.
- A Parish and Town Charter was developed in collaboration with parish and town councils and this has been adopted by 40 parish councils to date. An Annual Schedule of Events for parish councils was launched in May 2023 and includes training opportunities on 10 different topics, the biannual Strategic Forum events, and other opportunities relevant to parish councils. A Parish and Town Council Hub was also launched and is well used. The annual review of how we work with parish councils is being scoped and will commence in September 2023.
- 19 Asset of Community Value applications have been received and progressed since January 2022. An information sheet has been circulated to all Members and parish and town councils outlining the process and support available.

CW4

Leisure and Culture Services: Adopt a long term investment plan for leisure services and facilities across the district to ensure everyone has access to good quality leisure opportunities that meet their needs

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
CW4.1	Continue work to ensure that our leisure and wellbeing services are fit for the future by completing the Leisure Review options appraisal as well as supporting the recovery of the leisure centres from the pandemic.	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Completed	2022	This action is complete and is recommended to be replaced with an action focusing on the development of in-house Leisure Services for Stratford Park.
CW4.2	Working with partners, increase the number, accessibility, and quality of playing pitches, play areas and outside spaces within the district	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Progressing	2023	To reflect the ongoing nature of this work and to allow for continued reporting, it is recommended that the deadline is extended.
CW4.3	Increase physical activity and sports participation through our Healthy Lifestyles Scheme in partnership with the Gloucestershire We Can Move programme	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Progressing	2023	To reflect the ongoing nature of this work and to allow for continued reporting, it is recommended that the deadline is extended.
CW4.4	Support refurbishment of Stratford Park Lido by submitting a bid, in partnership with Stroud Town Council and Friends of the Lido to the National Lottery Heritage Fund	Community Services & Licensing	Hannah Drew	Progressing	2024	Minor amendments have been proposed to this action to make it more specific to the work being undertaken in the development of Stratford Park Lido.
CW4.5	Building on previous work, develop an Arts and Culture Strategy for the District	Community Services & Licensing	Keith Gerrard	Progressing	2024	Minor amendments have been proposed to this action.
CW4.6	Implement the Museum in the Park's free-to-join Supporter Scheme to provide residents with exciting opportunities to engage with the museum and extend community reach to new audiences ensuring the museum remains at the heart of the wider community	Community Services & Licensing	Keith Gerrard	Completed	2022	This action is complete and operational. It is recommended that this action is closed and a performance indicator is put in place to monitor engagement with the Museum in the Park and the Supporter Scheme.

DELIVERED:

- Due to changes to VAT from HMRC, officers had to revisit and review the Leisure Services options appraisal and the operation of Stratford Park is now being brought in-house. Membership at both Stratford Park and The Pulse are still below pre-Covid levels, however demand for swimming lessons continues to grow at both sites.
- The 3G pitch at Archway school is progressing well and work is due to start in August 2023. Discussions have been held between Brimscombe Football Club, Gloucestershire Football Association, Football Foundation to discuss options of a 3G pitch at this club. We have also been supporting Whitminster Pavilion which has been closed due to structural issues which puts cricket and football at risk of losing their playing pitch. 5 play areas have been identified and work has begun on 3 of these with an anticipated completion date of late September 2023.
- The Physical Activity Plan has been adopted and we continue to work with We Can Move to increase physical activity levels across the district. In partnership with Active Gloucestershire we have organised two funded programmes - a supervised group-based activity programme called 'It's You Move' and a project to support and encourage people to lead an active healthy lifestyle called 'Get Out, Get Active'.
- A conditions survey has been commissioned for the Lido to assess the extent of work required and the cost implications. Once this has been completed the resource required and viability of the investment will be better understood. A Task and Finish group has been set up to discuss charitable status for the Lido and to develop a Heritage Lottery Funding bid.
- '64 Million Artists', an organisation based within the district have been procured to develop an Arts and Culture Strategy.
- The Museum in the Park's Supporter Scheme was successfully implemented as per the project plan and a performance indicator will be developed to measure take up of the scheme.

CW5

Equality Diversity & Inclusion: Embed equality, diversity and inclusion as a priority across the Council and the District with targeted support for those who experience the most disadvantage in our communities

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
CW5.1	Deliver our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2021-25, through engaging with communities, showing leadership and championing equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do	Community Services & Licensing	Hannah Emery	Progressing	2025	No change is recommended for this action although performance indicators have been identified.
CW5.2	Adopt effective and transparent policies to reduce inequalities that result from socio-economic disadvantage in line with Section 1 of the Equality Act, the socio-economic duty, as an effective framework for tackling local poverty and economic inequality	Community Services & Licensing	Hannah Emery	Progressing	2022	To reflect the ongoing nature of this work and to allow for continued reporting, it is recommended that the deadline is extended.
CW5.3	Lead and support action to reduce health inequalities in partnership with Public Health and local NHS trusts	Community Services & Licensing	Emma Keating-Clark	Progressing	2024	Amendments have been proposed to this action to expand and reflect the work being undertaken to reduce health inequalities.
CW5.4	Work with partners to improve the accessibility and welcome of public spaces and shops, and improve awareness of impairments both visible and invisible	Community Services & Licensing	Amy Beckett	Progressing	Ongoing	Amendments have been made to this action to make it more focused on the work being undertaken.
CW5.5	Work with partners to support older people to stay in their homes for longer and continue to work to become a dementia friendly district	Community Services & Licensing	Angela Gillingham	Progressing	2024	To reflect the ongoing nature of this work and to allow for continued reporting, it is recommended that the deadline is extended, minor amendments have also been proposed to the action wording.
CW5.6	Support our Armed Forces Champion and provide help as needed to former members of the armed services who need extra support and continue to deliver the Armed Forces Covenant across the local area	Community Services & Licensing	Michelle Elliott	Completed	2024	This action is complete and operational. It is recommended that this action is closed and a performance indicator is put in place to monitor support provided to former members of the Armed Forces.

DELIVERED:

- The Annual Report on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan was submitted to Council in July 2023, including an update on progress and achievements made on the 2022/23 Action Plan and results of the TIDE report. The 2023/24 Action Plan includes actions on procurement and contract management, training and development, and work to improve Equality Impact Assessments. The ED&I Working Group meet monthly and continue to monitor progress against the Action Plan.
- Socio-economic disadvantage is now included in Equality Impact Assessments as well as the 9 protected characteristics. We are part of a small group of local authorities working with the EHRC to establish best practice in this area.
- We use the Social Value Portal to measure social value through our procurement activity over £75,000. Tailored Stroud District Themes, Outcomes and Measures have been developed that align with our strategic priorities, and these were adopted by Strategy & Resources in November 2022.
- We continue to lead on partnership working between the voluntary and statutory sectors including influencing the NHS to commit emergency funding to the Community Hubs to support their response to the Cost of Living crisis. The Children and Young People's ILP Working Group are planning a workshop for Early Years and Youth provision in Autumn 2023 which will inform commissioners about challenges for young people and families and establish new partnerships for the sector in Stroud District.
- Several walks have been arranged with Gloucestershire Sight Loss Council to raise awareness and understanding of what life is like for people with visual impairments. We are working with parish and town councils to offer funding opportunities through the UK Shared Prosperity funding to progress regeneration ambitions of local high streets to improve accessibility.
- SDC continue to work with the Integrated Locality Partnership to shape commissioning and services in the district in line with the ILP priorities for Frailty, Older Adults and Carers. We continue to progress initiatives relating to older people's wellbeing including the modernisation of Careline to support people to live independently in their own homes, the growth of Healthy Lifestyles classes aimed at older people and the development of Community Hubs to provide local social support for older residents. We have received a grant from DFG for £350k to replace the current Careline units and ensure they are ready for the digital switchover in 2025. This is in partnership with Publica and Cheltenham Borough Council.
- We have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and an officer/Member Armed Forces group has been set up to monitor progress against the Action Plan.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Protecting and enhancing our environment and leading the district to carbon neutrality in 2030

EC1

Tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency: Achieve the commitments set for 2021-2024 of the Strategy to be a carbon neutral and ecologically sound district by 2030

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
EC1.1	Set up a 2030 Core Group to provide high level strategic overview on delivery, engage with external stakeholders and the public, identify funding opportunities and resourcing required to meet them	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	Brendan Cleere	Completed	2022	This action is operational. A new action is included in the refreshed plan resulting from the merge of EC1.1 and EC1.3 to ensure continued reporting of the work in this area.
EC1.2	Establish the performance management of the 2030 Strategy across the organisation to monitor and report progress towards the Strategy's aims and commitments	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	Brendan Cleere	Completed	2023	This action is operational and it is recommended to close.
EC1.3	Plan and implement the community engagement aspect of the Strategy, to include a 2030 community website and direct activities with residents, linking to the Community Engagement Strategy (CW3.1)	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	Brendan Cleere	Completed	2023	This action is operational. A new action is included in the refreshed plan resulting from the merge of EC1.1 and EC1.3 to ensure continued reporting of the work in this area.

EC1.4	Establish an ethics policy for our investments, incorporating work within the Brunel Partnership to divest pension funds from fossil fuels	Strategy & Resources / Audit & Standards	Lucy Clothier	Completed	2022	This action is operational and it is recommended to close.
EC1.5	Explore and progress additional projects for carbon reduction and /or biodiversity net gain and funding opportunities to deliver them.	Strategy & Resources / Environment	Brendan Cleere	Progressing	Ongoing	No changes proposed to this action although a definitive end date has been identified.
DELIVERED:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core group has been formed under the name '2030 Community Engagement Board' and is now well established and they have identified action areas on engine idling, carbon conversations, schools and their communities. The key activities and measures within the 2030 Strategy are reported to relevant committees quarterly. Additional work is being carried out by the 2030 team to establish ISO140001 across the whole organisation, which is an internationally recognised standard to help organisations manage their environmental responsibilities. A 2030 Communications Strategy is in place and pages on the main SDC website have been created for specific information needs including electric vehicles and home energy issues. The Ethical Investment Policy was approved by Council in February 2022 and dialogue on the divestment of pension funds will remain ongoing. Projects being progressed to reduce carbon include retrofitting Council housing stock, addressing waste issues in partnership with Ubico, and an electric vehicle salary sacrifice scheme for officers. 						
EC2 Biodiversity: Work with local communities and partners to protect and enhance the district's green infrastructure and biodiversity providing accessible environments that people can enjoy and which positively contribute to their good health and well-being						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
EC2.1	Develop a district Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2030 commitment NE7) and seek opportunities for re-wilding to boost biodiversity in partnership with landowners, businesses, the farming community, parish and town councils and local environmental organisations	Environment / Full Council	Conrad Moore / Rebecca Charley	Progressing	2024	Minor amendments proposed to this action to include the development of Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the district wide Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.
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	Environment	Maria Hickman	Completed	2026	This action is complete and operational. It is recommended that this action is closed and replaced with performance indicators.
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	Environment	Conrad Moore	Progressing	2024	No change recommended for this action.
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	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	2026	No change recommended for this action.
EC2.5	Use the Building with Nature standards for key regeneration sites across the district	Environment	Mark Russell	Progressing	Ongoing	No change recommended for this action.
DELIVERED:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are working with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) as the lead authority developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which will be finalised by September 2024. The SDC Action Plan will be developed alongside this. The LNRS steering group has commissioned work to produce county-wide interim advice on biodiversity net gain for officers, developers and agents. A new post of Strategic Lead - Nature Recovery and Biodiversity has been successfully recruited to. Flood management works are progressing well with a number of interventions complete across Slad, Painswick and Nailsworth Valleys. The project has been working with Environment Agency (EA) and WWT colleagues to develop a monitoring plan to take advantage of £80k worth of equipment that the EA are donating to the Stroud Valleys NFM project. A Strategic Vision for the River Frome has been developed. 5,500 trees were planted at Salmon Springs and discussions continue on future monitoring, implementation and delivery through Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund. Verge cutting undertaken on behalf of GCC has been reduced from 10 cuts per annum to 6 cuts per annum. Details of weedkiller use have been added to the website and 'No Mow May' has been expanded to 'rough cut' areas. 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. 						
EC3 Sustainable Construction and Retrofit: Work with partners to establish Stroud district as a sustainable construction centre of excellence, investing in the skills and capacity in the local economy so public and private buildings across the district can become low carbon and energy efficient						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
EC3.1	Agree a costed plan to retrofit all council homes as necessary and begin the first phase of delivery to realise optimum emission reductions and achieve an average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating C across all council homes by 2030	Housing	Tara Skidmore	Progressing	2023	The first part of this action is complete and a revised action and refreshed end date has been recommended to reflect the ongoing development of this work.
EC3.2	In line with the Zero Carbon Public Estate project, produce blueprints for the retrofitting of identified public buildings such as Beeches Green and the Rail Station/Cheapside areas of Stroud as well as identifying other opportunities across the district	Strategy & Resources	Alison Fisk	Progressing	Ongoing	Minor amendments proposed to this action to strengthen the action wording and reflect the work being undertaken.
EC3.3	Develop partnerships, provide advice, and support local action to help private home owners and businesses meet the retrofit challenge (CN2030 BE2, BE7 and BE8)	Housing	Brendan Cleere	Progressing	2026	No changes proposed to this action.
EC3.4	Work with partners to position Stroud District as a Retrofit Centre for Excellence which provides training and develops the skills needed to retrofit homes and businesses	Strategy & Resources	Brendan Cleere	Progressing	2026	No changes proposed to this action.
EC3.5	Develop planning policies and developer guidance to enable all new buildings to achieve a net zero carbon standard		Mark Russell	Completed	2023	This action is completed and a revised action has been recommend to reflect the ongoing development of the action
DELIVERED:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A costed plan to retrofit all council homes as necessary has been agreed. A Council House decarbonisation Wave 1 project will carry out 167 retrofit installations and a Social Housing Decarbonisation bid for Wave 2 has been successful, which includes 250 further properties. First Masterplans for Beeches Green have been received. Land at Bath Place, Cheapside has been purchased and draft procurement documents have been prepared for the exploratory work for the land around the station to include Bath Place. GWR has commissioned Oxford Architects to look at the options for step free access across the station to support the Access for All bid to the Department for Transport. Agreement in principle from Network Rail to dispose of land adjacent around the station car park to the Council to facilitate the wider regeneration plans for this area. Warm and Well and Innovate to Renovate partnerships continue to deliver and progress domestic retrofit. We are in the set-up phase for Low Carbon Communities to provide tech support to 100 district homes that are committed to making investments. 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 Mobility / transport: Support development of an integrated active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport network and development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure working with county and regional partners						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
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,	Environment	Simon Maher	Progressing	2024	Minor amendments proposed to this action to remove the aspects that have been completed and reflect the ongoing nature of this work.
EC4.2	In partnership with the County Council, 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 of the District	Strategy & Resources	Conrad Moore	Progressing	Ongoing	No changes proposed to this action although a definitive end date has been identified.
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	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	2026	No changes proposed to this action although a definitive end date has been identified.
EC4.4	Review taxi and private hire licensing conditions to consider moving from an 'age' condition to an 'emissions' based condition – to encourage an increase in the percentage of low and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (CN2030 M8)	Community Services & Licensing	Rachel Andrew	Progressing	2022	A new age and emissions policy has been adopted and a revised action has been proposed to develop initiatives to encourage the increase in % of low, ultra low emission and Euro 6 compliant vehicles.
DELIVERED:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LCWIPs for Stroud, Cam, Dursley and Uley have been prepared and published. Officers are supporting GCC to prepare a county-wide 'rural' LCWIP. Approximately £300k of funding has been committed to strategic and local cycling and walking projects, with more in the pipeline. We have signed, with other Districts and GCC, a Statement of Shared Intent to promote the decarbonisation of transport, by supporting sustainable public transport networks and active travel routes. A business case has been submitted to Government for a new rail station at Stonehouse on the Bristol-Birmingham mainline. Through the Gloucestershire Rail Partnership we have created a 2023 summer shuttle bus service between Cam and Dursley via the rail station to attractions at the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge. Site plans for electric vehicle charging points are being created and a full report including capital requirements has been submitted to September 2023's Environment Committee. A new age and emissions policy for licensed taxi and private hire vehicles was adopted by CS&L committee in March 2023. 						

EC5 Circular economy: Develop the foundations of a sustainable circular economy for the district by minimising consumption, reducing the quantity of resources sent to incineration and applying the waste hierarchy: prevent, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and as a last resort disposal						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
EC5.1	Further reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste and minimise its environmental impact	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	2024	No changes proposed to this action.
EC5.2	Work with our partner Ubico to identify joint opportunities for carbon reduction projects in household collection and management of public spaces	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	2025	No changes proposed to this action.
EC5.3	Support the phasing out of single use plastics in the district and encourage and support local initiatives to 'reduce, repair and recycle'	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	2023	This action is on track but it is ongoing work and to reflect this, and allow for continued reporting, it is recommended that the deadline is extended.
EC5.4	Continue to increase recycling rates across the district.	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	2026	No changes proposed to this action.

DELIVERED:

- A Waste Education Officer will commence duties in 2023, driving resident engagement with a view to maximising the use of existing recycling provision. The role will also increase resource to drive forward projects to increase the number of recyclates able to be collected at the kerbside.
- The introduction of HVO fuel as alternative to diesel for Ubico fleet vehicles was agreed by Environment Committee in March 2023, and this is expected to be introduced in late 2023. The short term fleet procurement strategy outlines a preference for EV, where operational output is not compromised. Where EV presents too much risk, HVO will be used as an interim solution.
- We have been highlighting recycling contamination levels via a dedicated engagement programme and we also input into the county-wide Communications Plan to 'reduce, repair and recycle'. Communications campaigns have included 'Action on Plastics' and the next campaign will be focussed on food waste.
- A 'Waste Wizard' has been introduced which is a tool for residents to find out how to reuse, recycle or safely dispose of items. Residents in Stroud have used the tool more than any other district in the county.

EC6 Renewable energy: Increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable sources in the district and work on decarbonising existing networks						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
EC6.1	Continue to increase renewable generation in the district and to decarbonise existing networks, and support community-owned renewable energy schemes	Environment	Brendan Cleere	Progressing	Ongoing	No changes proposed to this action although a definitive end date has been identified.
EC6.2	Deliver the water source heat pump projects at Ebley and Brimscombe Port Mills	Strategy & Resources	Alison Fisk	Completed	2023	This action is complete and it is recommended to be replaced with a new action and Performance Indicator focused on the delivery of decarbonisation projects utilising Salix funding.
EC6.3	Increase the proportion of Council and partner fleet vehicles powered by zero or low carbon technologies	Environment	Mike Towson	Progressing	Ongoing	No changes proposed to this action.
EC6.4	Deliver key low carbon demonstrator projects, including a project for 7 homes in Draycott, Cam	Housing	Tara Skidmore	Progressing	2023	Minor amendments to the action wording and an extended deadline proposed to reflect the continuation of this work.

DELIVERED:

- Work on the leisure centres and Museum in the Park decarbonisation project has commenced.
- We are also supporting a partnership led by Transition Stroud and Big Solar Co-Op to scope for potential community energy projects.
- Water source heat pumps were installed at Ebley and Brimscombe Port Mills by January 2022 and have been operating successfully.
- A strategy for renewing fleet vehicles has been approved by Environment Committee. Smaller electric vehicles will be complemented by the use of HVO for Ubico RCVs as a transitional fuel.
- Feasibility studies are being carried out prior to low carbon demonstrator projects being undertaken.

ECONOMY, RECOVERY & REGENERATION

Supporting and thriving and resilient local economy

ER1 Economic recovery: Support our high streets and businesses to enable recovery of the local economy from the impacts of COVID-19 and building foundations for a sustainable and inclusive local economy						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
ER1.1	Develop and implement an inclusive and sustainable 'Economic Development Strategy' including supporting market towns and sectors most impacted by the pandemic	Strategy & Resources	Amy Beckett	Completed	2023	The Economic Development Strategy has been developed and approved and it is recommended that this action is replaced to focus on the implementation of the Strategy.
ER1.2	Continue to support high street businesses to increase their digital and online visibility	Strategy & Resources	Amy Beckett	Progressing	Ongoing	Minor amendments have been proposed to strengthen this action and reflect the work being undertaken.
ER1.3	Support local high streets through the 'Think Local, Shop Local' campaign and local initiatives to increase footfall such as markets, events and community-led initiatives	Strategy & Resources	Amy Beckett	Completed	2022	This action is operational and has been replaced with a revised action merging ER1.3 and ER1.4 to develop work in this area.
ER1.4	Work with partners across Stroud district to grow a sustainable visitor economy, including the night time economy, walking and cycling, culture and leisure attractions	Community Services & Licensing	Amy Beckett	Progressing	Ongoing	It is proposed for this action to be merged with an ongoing action for ER1.3 to join up this work and allow for more effective reporting and performance management.
ER1.5	Consult with all types of businesses on how to improve business services, for example by providing a 'one door' access point into the Council, direct engagement from Councillors and in particular actions to address the needs of small businesses	Strategy & Resources	Amy Beckett	Progressing	2024	It is proposed for this action to become a Milestone of ER1.1 as it contributes to this action and will allow for more effective performance monitoring.

DELIVERED:

- The Economic Development Strategy was approved in March 2022 and work is continuing on the implementation of the Economic Development Action Plan including, but not limited to, supporting an increase in footfall in market towns and working with partners to deliver business support across the district.
- A provider has been secured to deliver digital and online support and training for high street business across the district, and support continues to be available through this provider.
- Welcome Back funding was utilised to support with shop local campaigns and to support parishes to increase footfall to market towns, markets and events. This includes continued videos promoting towns and a new walking and cycling app. The app has a good number of downloads and unique users.
- We continue to work with Cotswold Tourism and Visit Gloucestershire and a Tourism Officer has been recruited.
- We are engaged with business groups to understand the needs of different business communities and we are working with business support organisations, including the Growth Hub, to consider how both the Council and partners meet these needs.

ER2 Regeneration: Deliver key regeneration sites across the district, especially brownfield sites and longterm empty properties, for local jobs, homes, community facilities and green spaces						
		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
ER2.1	Develop Brimscombe Port as a key strategic site to support a thriving community, in line with project milestones which include securing a development partner and delivering infrastructure works	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	Leonie Lockwood	Progressing	2026	No change proposed to this action.
ER2.2	Deliver Phase 1b of the Canal Project (Cotswold Canals Connected), incorporating land acquisition, planning application for the 'missing mile', Ocean Bridge works and a range of activities including five local activity hubs along the canal	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	Chris Mitford-Slade	Progressing	2025	To reflect the ongoing nature of this work and to allow for continued reporting, it is recommended that the deadline is extended.
ER2.3	Produce a pipeline of regeneration schemes progressing 'hard to develop' brownfield sites and long-term empty properties across the district, delivering quality local jobs and homes, while preserving and enhancing biodiversity	Full Council, Strategy themes to relevant committee	Leonie Lockwood	Progressing	2026	Minor amendments have been proposed to the wording of this action.
ER2.4	Support the development of a diverse local economy of social enterprises, cooperatives and small businesses to increase commercial space available for expansion and by exploring for low cost sites and start-ups, as well as protecting existing employment sites	Strategy & Resources / Audit & Standards	Mark Russell	Progressing	Ongoing	Minor amendments have been proposed to the wording of this action.

DELIVERED:

- St Modwen Homes have been selected as the development partner for Brimscombe Port. They have held various public consultation events and focus groups, a South West Design Review Panel, and a pre app with highways and planning, all of which will feed into the detailed design.
- The Ocean Bridge project was completed on time and within budget, however planning approval for the 'missing mile' has been delayed by the Flood Risk modelling as the Environment Agency have requested further information and modelling of the baseline model. A Community Engagement Manager has been recruited to the Canals team to develop the activity plan, focusing on social and community outcomes.
- Six priority projects were agreed with the Regeneration and Investment Board which focus in whole or in part on brownfield regeneration sites. A register of all brownfield sites has been prepared and is updated twice a year for the Local Plan. Purchase of the brownfield site at Bath Place, Cheapside was completed in December 2022.
- The draft Local Plan allocates an additional 90 hectares of employment land within the District and seeks to protect existing employment areas. Draft Local Plan hearing sessions on draft employment policies and sites were held during March-June 2023. The approved Economic Development Strategy identifies a commitment to work to increase commercial space for smaller businesses.

ER3 Investment: Promote the Stroud district to attract investment in key infrastructure and high quality jobs with a focus on environmental technologies, engineering and manufacturing and creative industries

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
ER3.1	Attract investment by setting out the offer of Stroud District in a new 'Place Prospectus' to showcase the district's achievements and future priorities	Strategy & Resources	Mark Russell	Completed	2021	This action is operational and is recommended to be closed and replaced with a performance indicator in the refreshed Council Plan.
ER3.2	Promote prosperity and visitors to the district's waterways, by developing a Canal Strategy, which links to heritage and biodiversity objectives	Strategy & Resources	Mark Russell	Completed	2022	The Canal Strategy has been approved and it is recommended for this action to be replaced with an action focused on the delivery of the Canal Strategy.
ER3.3	Work to secure external funding for priority projects, by establishing a task force to review bid options and developing a bid to the Government's Levelling Up Fund and other funding opportunities	Strategy & Resources	Brendan Cleere	Completed	2022	This action is complete and is recommended to be closed and replaced with a performance indicator to track the delivery of projects identified in the Levelling Up Bid.
ER3.4	Work with partners to support the bid to the UK Atomic Energy Authority to secure the first prototype commercial fusion plant and associated research and innovation park at Oldbury & Berkeley	Strategy & Resources / Full Council	Mark Russell	Completed	2024	This action is complete and is recommended to be replaced with an action focusing on the promotion of Severn Edge as green energy hub.

DELIVERED:

- The Place Prospectus was launched in April 2023 and officers are now developing an Ambassadors' Programme and newsletter, following up with those businesses that attended the launch.
- The Canals Strategy was approved in October 2022 following a public consultation and the subsequent Action Plan is currently in development
- The Council's Levelling Up Fund bid of £16.m was submitted in July 2022 and in January 2023 we were informed that our bid was unfortunately not successful. The projects that were subject to the bid remain valid and necessary, and all delivery partners are committed to pursuing alternative means to deliver them.
- An award of £450k was made in June 2022 for a new Green Skills and Retrofit Centre, to be created by SGS College at the Berkeley Science and Technology Park.
- The Council worked with partners to lobby Government for Severn Edge to be announced as the successful bid. However, in October 2022 the Government announced that Severn Edge had not been successful.

ER4 Support for businesses: Champion local businesses of all types and sizes that lead on environmental and social good practice and support them to grow, keeping wealth in the district, strengthening local supply chains and offering rewarding local jobs

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
ER4.1	Create a 'favoured trader' list of local businesses and champion those businesses that are living wage employers and lead on environmental and social good practice	Strategy & Resources	Amy Beckett	Will not be met	2023	This action will not be progressed as it as as creating a favoured trader list is no longer recommended. A new action merging ER4.1 and ER4.5 has been proposed to develop work with business networks and trade unions.
ER4.2	Explore options for bringing more financial power and resilience to our district such as cooperative banking, credit unions, investment in local schemes including renewable energy projects, and local government bonds	Strategy & Resources/Audit & Standards	Andrew Cummings	Progressing	2025	Minor amendments proposed to focus the action on progressing community funding opportunities.
ER4.3	Support procurement from local businesses and drive local spending on low carbon goods and services to create stronger supply chains within the local economy	Strategy & Resources	Sarah Turner	Progressing	Ongoing	Amendments proposed to this action to include review of the Procurement Strategy to ensure initiatives are developed to encourage local spend.
ER4.4	Work with partners to support the development of skills and training for all ages, including the unemployed, young people and apprentices, and across key sectors including the low carbon sector and visitor economy	Strategy & Resources / Full Council	Amy Beckett	Progressing	Ongoing	No changes recommended to this action.
ER4.5	Work with trade unions to support fair employment, encouraging more local businesses and organisations to be real living wage employers	Strategy & Resources / Full Council	Lucy Powell	Will not be met	2024	A new action merging ER4.1 and ER4.5 has been proposed to develop work with business networks and trade unions.

DELIVERED:

- £10k funding was provided to Stroud Valleys Credit Union to allow them to keep physical facilities available in Stroud. A Member update on Community Banks has been scheduled for late 2023.
- A Community Wealth Building Report was developed and agreed by Strategy & Resources Committee in July 2023.
- In September 2022, Audit & Standards Committee received the first ethical appraisal of treasury management investments. Treasury management performance now also includes ESG ratings.
- We have worked with partners to support the delivery of the Multiply programme through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) . We have also worked with training providers through the UKSPF Investment Plan to look at increasing provision and raising awareness of available courses.
- We continue to develop the Apprenticeships on offer at SDC and we have recently joined up with Cirencester College to widen the Apprenticeships available. We still work closely with SGS college and have recently attended their business events to promote opportunities within SDC and to identify other organisations where we can work in partnership to develop Apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities within the Council and/or District.

ER5 Strategic Planning: Adopt the new Stroud District Local Plan

		Committee	Lead Officer	Status	End date	Comments
ER5.1	Progress the Local Plan through public examination and secure its adoption	Strategy & Resources	Mark Russell	Known delays	2022	Delays due to examination process. An extended deadline has been proposed to reflect this.
ER5.2	Support the delivery of strategic site allocations contained within the local plan and the key infrastructure required to support it	Strategy & Resources	Mark Russell	Progressing	2026	No changes recommended to this action.
ER5.3	Work with parish councils to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans and Orders to meet local development needs	Strategy & Resources	Simon Maher	Progressing	Ongoing	Minor amendments proposed to this action to include increasing community planning activities.

DELIVERED:

- 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 Autumn 2023. On the assumption the Inspector is prepared to approve an amended Plan, potential modifications may be subject to public consultation during Autumn/Winter 2023 before adoption in 2024.
- 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.
- Support is currently being provided to six parish councils that are developing Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) or whose plans are under review.