

## Corporate Plan Delivery Plan 2021/22 - Quarter 4 2021/22 CPDP Update

***Vision: Making Uttlesford the best place to live, work and play***

Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment				
We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<b>1. Take action on Climate Change</b>				
<i>a. Adopt policies to meet new environmental national guidelines/standards as they emerge</i>	Develop a Climate Crisis Action Plan, prioritised by impact, cost, and deliverability.	Action Plan to be developed by 30 Sept 2021	Officer time in 2021/22. Funding allocated for the plan actions of £333K for 21/22	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Climate Change Action Plan was adopted by Cabinet 11 January 2022. Whilst the action plan itself has taken longer than anticipated to produce many of the actions have been progressed and a number completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 12 actions for delivery in March 2022 (Phase 2 of the Action Plan) 11 of which are complete</li> <li>• There are 13 actions that will be delivered by December 2022 (Phase 3 of the Action Plan)</li> <li>• There are 10 action points that fall in 2023, 2025 or are ongoing.</li> </ul> <p>A considerable number of workstreams are under way and are detailed later in this document. Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of switching to a green tariff saving the equivalent of 29kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e per household in 2021/22.</li> <li>• the creation of an eCitizen Science Biodiversity Study</li> <li>• securing around £1,268,000 of external funding to assist with domestic home improvements that will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions</li> <li>• £517,000 Defra funding secured to deliver a novel Market Town Clean Air Initiative.</li> <li>• the soft launch of a new communication website which helps engage residents on climate-related issues.</li> <li>• drafting a fleet decarbonisation plan that will set out how we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels</li> </ul>				
<i>b. Drive policies to deliver low carbon buildings</i>	Implement policies that reduce the carbon footprint of new development	Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 2021)	Within existing officer resources	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Interim Director of Planning

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<b>Comment:</b> The Interim climate change guidance is in place and considered in regard to planning applications. The Climate Change Officer is working closely with the Local Plan policy team to develop the new Local Plan which will have climate change mitigation and adaptation at its core. The Climate Crisis Action Plan was approved by Cabinet on 11 January 2022. The Planning Policy Team is working on a climate change supplementary planning document (SPD) with a view to be adopted in line with the new local plan. The SPD will explain how to incorporate sustainability measures into planning and place-making.				
<i>c. Improve average energy efficiency of Council housing stock</i>	To be included in the Review of HRA business plan	Measurable improvement in energy efficiency of housing stock.  Details to be included in the HRA business plan to be developed by 30 Sept 21	Within existing officer resources and subject to Business Energy and Industrial Strategy grants	Portfolio Holder for Housing and Health  Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities
<b>Comment:</b> A survey of all Council housing stock is underway by Uttlesford Norse Ltd. The purpose of the survey is to assess the current efficiency of UDC stock and to quantify the improvements that can be made to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon impact. The survey will not be completed until 2023 without additional resources being deployed through Uttlesford Norse Ltd (this is being explored).  In recent years as part of ongoing improvements to our housing stock, 90 council owned properties have had heat pumps installed, 280 have had external wall insulation installed and solar panels have been installed on around 300 properties				
<i>d. Increase the number of trees in the district (and protect existing trees).</i>	Introduce a tree planting initiative in partnership with town and parish councils.	Detailed proposals to be included in Climate Crisis Action Plan	Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services
<b>Comment:</b> The Council continues to promote tree and hedge planting programmes and is providing funding from the Climate Change Emergency budget. All parish and town councils have been made aware that trees/hedging can be funded for any land they would like to put forward. A number of tree planting initiatives have been linked to the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and approximately 120 will be planted later in the year as a result.				
<i>e. Oppose a second runway at Stansted Airport</i>			Any policy proposals that might signal potential increase in runway capacity will be reported to members	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan  Interim Director of Planning

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<b>Comment:</b> There have been no policy proposals that might signal potential increase in the number of runways at Stansted Airport.				
<i>f. Set a Net Zero Carbon goal for the Council and implement supporting policies</i>	In making every policy decision, consider the opportunity to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, including:	Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 2021)	Part of Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues
	Review viability of replacing Council vehicles & equipment with electric alternatives at end of life.	Review capital programme to consider vehicle replacement and acquisitions programme ahead of budget setting for 2022/23.	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Budget
		All handheld petrol driven council equipment (such as strimmer's), will transition to electric; 50 separate items of equipment by 31 Dec 2021.	Existing equipment budget	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan
		Conduct a study to investigate the feasibility of Electric Shuttle Buses for Saffron Walden and Dunmow by 31 Dec 2021	Climate Change budget	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
		Explore the option of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as an alternative to diesel for the Council fleet. If	£45,000 for the installation of suitable fuel tanks	Interim Director of Planning

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
		feasible implement by 31 December 2021		

**Comment:** A proposal to elaborate the ‘sustainability’ section of the checklist for reports going to committee/cabinet/council (excepting planning reports) is under consideration. This would provide guidance to assist decision-makers ensure that the climate impact of each decision is considered as an integral part of the decision.

A net Zero by 2030 target has been set for the Council’s own emissions. The Council’s vehicles and equipment account for approximately 50% of gross CO2 emissions, but after deduction allowed by the green energy tariff which offsets building emissions, they account for approximately 80% of the Council’s net emissions.

A draft fleet decarbonisation plan was completed on target, by the end of March 2022, and the next task is to further explore the emerging market for electrically powered HGVs, which is currently limited. There are longer term links to the development of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex which is underway and is a partnership of all waste collection authorities (districts, boroughs and city) and the Waste Disposal Authority (Essex County Council). This is relevant as there may be a requirement to change the method by which we collect recycling and waste, changing the specification of the vehicles used.

Fleet emissions account for just under half of our overall business emissions. It should be noted that it is unlikely that there is environmental or financial benefit in replacing fossil fuel powered vehicles that are not at the end of their useful life. The 21/22 and 22/23 capital programme includes replacement of:

- 5 Heavy Goods Vehicles – like for like replacements
- 3 Sweepers – like for like replacements
- 6 large vans / pickups – electrically powered alternatives will be trialled in March when test vehicles are thought to be available.
- 2 small vans. Likely to be replaced with electrically powered alternatives.

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<p>HVO fuel has been trialled in a number of our waste collection fleet vehicles and has proven to be a suitable alternative with no maintenance issues and similar performance. It has been concluded that HVO more expensive than regular diesel and there are significant questions about the true environmental cost of this product. If assurances can be obtained then the Council can swap to HVO in future with minimal impact other than cost.</p> <p>The Local Plan will address climate change through the strategic location of development and through policies. Work continues to progress well with the intention of the Council submitting the local plan for Examination in 2023 in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was adopted by the Council last year. The Council will update the LDS in July 2022 ahead of presenting to Cabinet reflecting progress and minor changes to the publication date of the Regulation 18 Local Plan. This will show the regulation 18 consultation commencing in July 2022 instead of June 2022 and allows for members to better consider the emerging evidence.</p> <p>Seventeen consultant studies are progressing, and this work will form the evidence base that will support the local plan. Recent reports to members have included the Sustainability Appraisal, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Water Cycle, Employment, Renewable Energy, Employment, Landscape Sensitivity, Strategic Flood Risk, Heritage Sensitivity, Transport and Retail Studies.</p>				
<i>f. Set a Net Zero Carbon goal for the Council and implement supporting policies</i>	Optimise the environmental opportunities at Little Canfield Business Park (LCBP)	Install a new vehicle washdown facility that recycles 90% of the water used. Install PV panels on the vehicle workshop	Within existing budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues; Assistant Director of ICT and Facilities  Assistant Director of Environmental Services
<p><b>Comment:</b> The new vehicle wash facility has been installed, and will be operational in late May. This will recycle water and therefore significantly reduce water consumption compared to the existing method of jet washing vehicles at Shire Hill and Dunmow Depot. PV panels are also in place on the vehicle workshop and will feed into the national grid when excess power is generated</p>				
<i>g. Increase walking, cycling and sustainable transport</i>	Improve connectivity for walking and cycling	Leverage S106 contributions and liaison with ECC to secure the implementation of additional walking and cycling facilities.	Within existing budget.	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Stansted Airport, Infrastructure Strategy and the Local Plan  Interim Director of Planning

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
----------	------------	--------------------	-----------	-------------

**Comment:** A Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan is due to be commissioned during 2022/23 and will build on residents' feedback gathered as part of the active travel survey carried out in 2021/22. The survey explored perceived barriers to active travel and opportunities to improve infrastructure. The plan will provide an evidence base for improvements that can then be achieved via S106 developer contributions. Projects can also be identified through the Local Highways Panel and subject to funding be delivered through that route.

The Local Plan will address increases in walking and cycling through the location of development and through appropriate policies and infrastructure requirements. Work continues to progress well with the intention of the Council submitting the local plan for Examination in 2023 in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was adopted by the Council last year. The Council will update the LDS in July 2022 ahead of presenting to Cabinet reflecting progress and minor changes to the publication date of the Regulation 18 Local Plan. This will show the regulation 18 consultation commencing in July 2022 instead of June 2022 and allows for members to better consider the emerging evidence.

Seventeen consultant studies are progressing, and this work will form the evidence base that will support the local plan. Recent reports to members have included the Sustainability Appraisal, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Water Cycle, Employment, Renewable Energy, Employment, Landscape Sensitivity, Strategic Flood Risk, Heritage Sensitivity, Transport and Retail Studies.

<i>g. Increase walking, cycling and sustainable transport</i>	Introduce EV charging point provision	Four 22kw fast charging posts with twin ports at London Road Council Offices by 30 Sept 21. Twelve 7kw charging posts across three car park sites (Chequers Lane, White Street, Crafton Green) by 30 Sept 21. Four 7kw charging points at Little Canfield Business Park by 31 October 2021.	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget (and £15k capital programme and external grant funding)	Portfolio Holder for Planning & the Local Plan  Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Interim Director of Planning  Assistant Director of ICT and Facilities
---------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Comment:** Charging points identified above have all been installed and have been operational as reported last quarter. Charging points have also now been installed and are ready for use at our Little Canfield site.

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<i>h. Recognise the district's 'greenest' businesses and developers</i>	Create a new category in the Uttlesford Business Awards	Awards event held and green businesses duly recognised	From existing resources	Portfolio Holder for the Economy, Investment and Corporate Strategy  Assistant Director of Resources

**Comment:** Due to the ongoing impact of Covid 19, this activity will be rescheduled to year 2 (2022/23) of the Economic Recovery Action Plan as business awards were not held in 2021. In the meantime, the council is supporting regional initiatives to help local businesses reduce their carbon footprint.

### 2. Conserve our natural resources

<i>a. Implement and enforce policies that protect water and reduce energy consumption</i>	<p>Include in Climate Change Action Plan</p> <p>Engage in Water Resources East's work on developing projects with the water industry to address over abstraction of the chalk aquifer and protect the district's chalk streams</p>	<p>Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (30 Sept 21)</p> <p>The details of precisely what action might be required by UDC is not yet clear; engaging with WRE is the preliminary stage</p>	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues</p> <p>Assistant Director of Environmental Services</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Comment:** The Council is a member of Water Resources East, an organisation comprising more than 200 members which aims to develop a collaborative approach to water resource planning. It is anticipated that greater clarity on what will be required by UDC will be established over the coming year.

Consultants have been appointed to develop a Water Cycle Study (WCS) as part of the preparation of the Local Plan. This study will look at the availability of water resources for human consumption, its treatment and supply to homes and business, its use and consequently the generation of wastewater. It then looks at how wastewater is taken away, treated, and finally what happens when it is returned to the environment. A WCS is not a mandatory document, but Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are often encouraged by the Environment Agency (EA) to undertake them as part of the evidence base for a Local Plan. In some cases, Local Plans have been found unsound where there was insufficient evidence to show the local plan had taken into account the impact of growth on the aquatic environment. A WCS will provide that evidence, aiming to ensure development only occurs within environmental constraints, and helping to steer growth towards the most sustainable locations. They also promote early planning of water infrastructure so that it is in place prior to development being occupied, and boost engagement between LPAs and water companies. Work to complete the WCS is ongoing.

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<i>b. Drive programmes that increase biodiversity</i>	Include in Climate Change Action Plan	Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Change Action Plan Sept 21	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services
<p><b>Comment:</b> The UDC Green Infrastructure Plan is in development by the Local Plan team with support from the Climate Officer. This includes policies on natural and semi natural green infrastructure balancing biodiversity recovery planning with public access to green spaces. As part of this UDC is actively participating in Natural England's beta version of the Green Infrastructure Mapping Tool for Local Plan making, having identified flaws in the underlying data with regards to the accessibility of the green spaces, for example not all mapped sites are available for public access.</p> <p>The Council has carried out a citizen science biodiversity survey to identify projects that could come forward immediately as well as in the longer term. The principle of this is to layer the citizen science data with the Green Infrastructure Plan and identify and deliver those projects which would be independent of the Local Plan and those projects which would sit with the Local Plan (for instance by being associated with developer contributions and site layout design).</p>				
<i>c. Support local energy production initiatives</i>	Develop local energy production initiatives	Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan Sept 21	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services
<p><b>Comment:</b> A pilot project has been initiated in Littlebury and has been led by Saffron Walden Community Energy and Community Energy South, with support from UDC and ECC climate teams. The aim of the pilot project is to create a coordinated approach so that the future energy requirements of the settlement can be met by local infrastructure improvements. The project will also see the creation of individual property plans setting out how the efficiency of the home might be approved over time enabling the coordination of other home owner improvements. For example, if underfloor heating was required, it would be sensible to do the work required immediately before flooring was being replaced. An open day was held on the 23 April and was well attended by the local community. It is hoped that the Littlebury model will provide a scalable model that can be rolled out to other settlements across the district (or further afield).</p>				
<i>d. Implement programmes to reduce single-use plastics</i>	Develop the Chair's Charter to promote reduction in single use plastics and carbon footprint	The details are still being worked up but will initially focus on residents and communities. <i>The intended roll out to schools and then businesses</i>		Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services



## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
		<i>will need to be timed to ensure that they are able to engage fully in this promotion having regard to the pandemic related issues they will be managing for most of this year In addition it should be recognised that some businesses will have the added burden of new trading arrangements with the EU.</i>		
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Chairman's Charter was Launched in May 2021. It has not been possible to promote the Charter within schools as originally planned during the year because of Covid restrictions. Sixteen trial dual waste bins have now been installed in Thaxted, Stansted, Great Dunmow and Saffron Walden, which will enable the public to dispose of recyclable waste in litter bins. The aim of the dual bins is to reduce the amount of recyclable waste going to landfill, and if the trial is successful other locations will be identified and added to the scheme. Later this (calendar) year there are plans to invite schools to get involved with the Charter, and pledge to both reduce their plastic waste, and investigate different ways to reuse and recycle. Alongside this there will be events including community litter picks, business awards and school competitions.</p> <p>A wider waste education plan has been drafted for 2022/23 which includes actions to promote the Charter, focuses on waste minimisation including single use plastics and wider environmental issues such as Climate Change. The plan will be implemented by the Waste and Recycling Officer during 2022/23 with target e-newsletters being sent out in late May 2022.</p>				
e. Work to reduce per-capita landfill in the district			Campaigns will be run, within existing resources, including Love food Hate waste campaign and Keep Britain Tidy National Litter Pick (11 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> September 2021)	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
----------	------------	--------------------	-----------	-------------

**Comment:** The Council has supported national and local campaigns to improve awareness of waste related issues. It supported the National Litter Pick by providing equipment and collecting waste from community-organised litter picks. A number of social media campaigns have also been run for example to specifically highlight contamination within recycling collections and will continue through the coming year.

### 3. Protect and enhance our rural character and heritage

<i>a. Meet or exceed national standards for open and green spaces</i>	Policies to be developed through the Local Plan process	Timescales incorporated in the Local Development Scheme	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan  Interim Director of Planning
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Comment:** Work continues to progress well with the intention of the Council submitting the local plan for Examination in 2023 in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was adopted by the Council last year. The Council will update the LDS in July 2022 ahead of presenting to Cabinet reflecting progress and minor changes to the publication date of the Regulation 18 Local Plan. This will show the regulation 18 consultation commencing in July 2022 instead of June 2022 and allows for members to better consider the emerging evidence.

Seventeen consultant studies are progressing, and this work will form the evidence base that will support the local plan. Recent reports to members have included the Sustainability Appraisal, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Water Cycle, Employment, Renewable Energy, Employment, Landscape Sensitivity, Strategic Flood Risk, Heritage Sensitivity, Transport and Retail Studies.

<i>b. Encourage positive planning that values and protects our heritage</i>			Heritage will continue to be protected using existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan  Interim Director of Planning
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Comment:** The Local Plan will address heritage through the strategic location of development and appropriate policies. Work continues to progress well with the intention of the Council submitting the local plan for Examination in 2023 in accordance with the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which was adopted by the Council last year. The Council will update the LDS in July 2022 ahead of presenting to Cabinet reflecting progress and minor changes to the publication date of the Regulation 18 Local Plan. This will show the regulation 18 consultation commencing in July 2022 instead of June 2022 and allows for members to better consider the emerging evidence.

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
Seventeen consultant studies are progressing, and this work will form the evidence base that will support the local plan. Recent reports to members have included the Sustainability Appraisal, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Water Cycle, Employment, Renewable Energy, Employment, Landscape Sensitivity, Strategic Flood Risk, Heritage Sensitivity, Transport and Retail Studies.				
<i>c. Work with others to increase access to the heritage and history of our district</i>	Walden Castle project	Castle to reopen to the public early summer 2021 (Subject to Covid19 restrictions)	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Sport, Leisure and the Arts  Assistant Director of Corporate Services  Assistant Director of ICT and Facilities
<b>Comment:</b> As reported in previous updates, Walden Castle was successfully re-opened, and the keep is open six days per week for visitors to enter and enjoy. The Museum has been working with the Saffron Walden Heritage Development Group, and the Castle was promoted through a leaflet and short film made by the HDG, as well as through guided tours by a local Blue Badge Guide. The Castle grounds continue to be used for a range of community activities, with plans in place for the Jubilee weekend.				

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<i>c. Work with others to increase access to the heritage and history of our district</i>	Saffron Walden Museum improvements	<p>Completion of National Lottery Heritage Fund Resilient Heritage Project by 30 April 21</p> <p>Completion of Fund-raising Strategy and Forward Plan for selected development option by 31 October 21</p> <p>Fund-raising and new approach to National Lottery Heritage Fund for significant Heritage Grant Stage 1 application by 31 March 22. Note: New grant scheme about to be rolled out so details of specific requirements uncertain at this stage.</p>		<p>Portfolio Holder for Sports, Leisure, and the Arts</p> <p>Assistant Director of Corporate Services</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Resilient Heritage project was completed earlier in 2021/22. An Expression of Interest was then submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a pre-requisite for major Heritage Grant applications, and was successful. This quarter the Museum has been preparing a Stage 1 Development Grant Application. The Museum Society's Museum Development Committee has received advice on fund-raising as part of the Resilient Heritage project and a fund-raising strategy has been drafted; the fund-raising campaign will start when the Museum achieves its Stage 1 grant award. The Museum's new Forward Plan 2022-2026 summarises the proposed course of the redevelopment and was approved by Cabinet in January 2022 after consideration by the Museum Management Working Group.</p>				
<i>d. Work with our rural partners and developers to maintain habitat and wildlife corridors</i>		Detailed proposals to come from the Climate Crisis Action Plan (Sept 21)	Resources identified as part of the Climate Change Budget	<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan</p> <p>Interim Director of Planning</p>

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member
<p><b>Comment:</b> A Green Infrastructure Plan is in development by the Local Plan team with support from the Climate Officer. This includes policies on natural and semi natural green infrastructure balancing biodiversity recovery planning with public access to green spaces. As part of this, the Council is participating in Natural England's beta version of the Green Infrastructure Mapping Tool for Local Plan making, having identified flaws in the underlying data with regards to the accessibility of the green spaces, for example not all mapped sites are available for public access.</p> <p>The Council has carried out a citizen science biodiversity survey to identify projects that could come forward immediately as well as in the longer term. The principle of this is to layer the citizen science data with the Green Infrastructure Plan and identify and deliver those projects which would be independent of the Local Plan and those projects which would sit with the Local Plan (for instance by being associated with developer contributions and site layout design).</p>				
<i>e. Target littering and fly-tipping</i>	Support the National Litter Pick  Support community litter picking groups	Community litter pick events take place	Through the Cleaner Essex Group and KBT we continually promote initiatives to help combat or clean up littering which remains an issue within the district.	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Environmental Services
<p><b>Comment:</b> The Council supported the National Litter Pick by providing equipment and collecting waste from community organised litter picks. Enforcement Officers are also patrolling areas weekly bases whilst on district and are targeting monitoring at known hotspot fly-tipping locations. The Council is participating in a communications campaign which will use petrol pump advertising to promote anti-littering messages across Essex.</p>				
<b>4. Take strong action on dealing with pollution</b>				
<i>a. Increase air quality monitoring across the district</i>	Install 5 diffusion tubes at school sites to measure NO2  Install 2 tubes in proximity to Stansted Airport to measure hydrocarbons  Publish annual Air Quality report	Installation of tubes and monthly collection of data  Publication of Air Quality Report	Within existing resources	Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues  Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities

## Progressive Custodian of our Rural Environment

We Will:	Activities	Outputs/Milestones	Resources	Lead Member

**Comment:** The Environmental Health service has expanded its diffusion tube network to cover locations in the vicinity of schools. The annual Air Quality Status Report was published in Quarter 3 of 2021/22.

The service has been successful in applying to DEFRA for a range of projects to improve air quality in Saffron Walden. The Saffron Walden Clean Air Initiative (SWCAI) consists of a range of pilot schemes to assess the viability of e-bike hire and electric vehicle car clubs in the town. Funding has also been provided to improve awareness and change behaviour. This project is likely to commence in June and last for two years. Regular updates will be made to the Energy and Climate Change Working Group.

<i>b. Deliver reductions in pollution at identified problem areas</i>	<p>Identify problem areas through ongoing air quality monitoring</p> <p>Work with partners including Essex Highways to develop mitigation measures for those areas</p>	Acceptable levels of air quality at problem areas	Within existing resources	<p>Portfolio Holder for Environment and Green Issues</p> <p>Assistant Director of Housing, Health and Communities</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Comment:** Measured air pollution in 2020, as set out in the Annual Air Quality Report published in September 2021, reduced significantly from previous years due to Covid-19 national lockdowns and restrictions. There were no measured exceedances of Air Quality Objectives in 2020 and this represents the fourth year running of no exceedances at identified problem locations and we anticipate this to continue. The Annual Status Report for 2021 is likely to be made available in July/August 2022. New regulations made under the Environment Act 2021 are anticipated in October and the service will work to assess levels of compliance.

In the meantime, many actions originally planned as part of the Air Quality Action Plan now also form part of a series of projects linked the Council's Climate Change Strategy. These will also link in with projects as part of the Saffron Walden Clean Air Initiative once resources are in place to deliver the planned work.