

Essex Climate Action Plan

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



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1. Introduction

Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral, sets out recommendations to 2050 and recognises that Essex County Council (ECC) cannot tackle this challenge alone.

This document outlines the immediate actions ECC is taking directly and in concert with partners to drive effective progress against the Essex Climate Action Commission's (ECAC) recommendations.

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

2. Commitments

Essex County Council has adopted a new organisational strategy Everyone's Essex (ref: FP/172/10/21). This sets out four key strategic aims for ECC:

Key for Contributions to Strategic Commitments

Strong, Inclusive & Sustainable Economy



Good Jobs



Levelling Up the Economy



Infrastructure



Future Growth & Investment



Green Growth

High Quality Environment



Net Zero



Transport & Built Environment



Minimise Waste



Levelling Up the Environment



Green Communities

Health, Wellbeing & Independence For All Ages



Levelling Up Health



Healthy Lifestyles



Promoting Independence



Place-based Working



Carers

A Great Place For Children & Families To Grow



Education Outcomes



Levelling Up Outcomes for Families



Family Resilience & Stability



Safety



Outcomes for Vulnerable Children



One of the four strategic objectives is a core commitment to a High Quality Environment.

This includes commitments to deliver on net zero targets; to deliver a step change in sustainable travel and support net zero and climate resilient housing developments; to reduce waste and deliver a more circular economy; to help our communities be more resilient against flooding, heat stress and water shortages; and to work with communities and businesses providing advice and support to enable them to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build their own climate resilience. The commitment to a strong, inclusive and sustainable economy includes a commitment to green growth in Essex.

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

3. Cross-Cutting Projects Within ECC

Essex County Council is leading a number of cross-cutting projects within the Council itself, which are contributing to tackling climate change.

ECC recognises that action on one theme can benefit another, and this has a cumulative positive impact:

3.1. Ways of working

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

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

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

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



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

3.2. The Essex Pension Fund

The **Essex Pension Fund** administered by Essex County Council recognises both its responsibility to be a trusted investor and the range of potential long-term risks associated with climate change that the Fund, as a long-term investor, faces. The Investment Steering Committee has appointed specialist external managers to a range of investment mandates. The financial impact of issues, including climate change, forms one part of the process that determines the investments made on the Fund's behalf. From this, a full stakeholder consultation commenced in summer 2020, with the outcome of this being the formulation of a new Responsible Investment (RI) Policy based on a set of RI Investment Beliefs, which includes climate change and forms part of the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement.

3.3. ECC Investments

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

3.4. ECC Procurement

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



4. Land Use & Green Infrastructure

Percentage of farmland in Essex adopting sustainable land stewardship practices:



Coastal flood resilience schemes in critical areas to be implemented **by 2023**


























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














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

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

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

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Flood Resilience - Capital Flood Programme	<p>The floods capital programme is aimed at reducing surface water flood risk to the communities of Essex. The current programme has been highlighted as a priority up to 2024/25. The projects delivered through the capital programme will not only reduce surface water flood risk, but they will incorporate Natural Flood Management and Green Infrastructure measures that will provide environmental benefits such as habitat creation, carbon reduction/sequestration and health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>Capital 50% ECC funded, £6.57m.</p> <p>50% Env Agency Grant, £1.97m 2021/22</p>		    		
Flood Resilience - Community Climate Resilience Plans	<p>Local Councils and the public are more informed on steps they can take to address the climate emergency – whether adaptation or resilience. E.g. more informed about their flood risk and other climate change impacts in line with ECAC findings. Implementing proportionate local plans for mitigation and adaptation measures. Linking up with existing community groups and supporting the Essex Climate Action Commission changemakers programme.</p>	<p>£60,700 Revenue, Service Improvement Reserve</p>		    		

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Essex Forest Initiative	<p>In October 2019, we committed to plant 375,000 trees over the next five years. The primary reason is to lock up carbon, offsetting the carbon produced which is contributing to ongoing climate change. The trees will be planted across Essex, including on our own and other councils land and land from partners in voluntary sectors. The first year's planting target was 25,000 trees. We went beyond this and actually planted 38,615. This initiative is supported by a Forestry Officer funded by the ECAC until April 2023. ECC works in partnership with other authorities and charities across Essex.</p> <p>Essex County Council was successful in securing a £300,000 grant from the Forestry Commission. The Local Authority Treescape Fund is designed to support tree planting outside of woodlands. As such, work has been undertaken with borough and district partners (Colchester, Harlow and Epping Forest) and ECC has one site of its own (Cressing Temple Barns) to deliver the planting and maintenance of 5,595 trees (some whips and some standard-sized street trees).</p>	<p>Revenue New Investment £220,000 2022/23-2025/26.</p> <p>£300,000 grant from Forestry Commission.</p>		   		
Building with Nature	<p>ECC is working with Natural England and universities to write a set of Green Infrastructure Standards, which can be used to assess local planning policy and new development within the county to ensure that they are properly incorporating the principles outlined in the adopted Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy. The document has been through initial consultation and is currently going through a revision process based on comments we have received. We expect that a final version of the document should be published this winter. This initiative is supported by two Green Infrastructure Planning officers funded by ECC until April 2023.</p>	<p>£680,000 drawdown from Climate Change Reserve 2021/22 to 2022/23 Sustainable land use.</p>	 	   		
Maintenance of Green Streets (Cross Cut Transport)	<p>Essex Highways is the custodian of the public realm and there are multiple benefits to green initiatives, principal amongst these are flood reductions and urban heat stress reduction. To reduce the uncertainty about annual income we propose a Green Infrastructure Maintenance Reserve based on 35,000 trees at £55 per tree.</p>	<p>Revenue New Investment £1.925m 2022/23-2025/26.</p>	  			

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Local Nature Partnership	We have been working closely with the Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) the Royal Society For the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Natural England to set up a Local Nature Partnership. The LNP will pull together over 80 diverse groups and organisations to co-ordinate a countywide approach to levelling up the environment and identifying options to make the most efficient use of resources. We hope that the first meeting will take place in November 2021. The organisations listed above are also undertaking a mapping exercise to identify suitable Nature Recovery Networks that we expect will form part of an Essex-wide Nature Recovery Strategy.	Revenue New Investment £267,000 2022/23- 2024/25.		  		
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Statutory)	The Environment Bill is introducing a statutory requirement for a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). While the Environment Bill will require LAs to develop an NRS, the responsibility for delivery will be held across multiple partners. ECC is also seeking to adopt a partnership approach when it comes to adapting Essex to a Net Zero environment. We will set up a Local Nature Partnership (LNP). ECC is funding a new Green Infrastructure Delivery officer post until April 2023 and an LNRS and LNP officer for two years from January 2022.	Linked to Local Nature Partnership.		  		
Water Strategy	ECC is working with Water Resources East (WRE) to put together an integrated water strategy for the county. The aim of this document will be to take a holistic view of water management across the county in order to maximise the use of green and blue features to capture surface water where it lands. This will help to address future water scarcity issues that are likely to emerge because of climate change. In addition to this, the document will recommend a range of sustainable land management practices to reduce the need for potable water to be used as part of land management processes. It is envisaged the strategy will last 5-10 years.	Allocated funding from Climate Change Reserve. Included within £680,000 allocation for Sustainable Land Use, 2021/22-2022/23.	 			

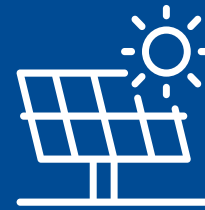


5. Energy

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

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

ECC is committed to:





















sourcing its own electricity from **renewable sources**

supporting roll out of Government **fuel poor grants**



helping **670 residents** source solar panels through a bulk scheme

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Buying Renewable Energy	Using our purchasing power as an electricity customer to encourage investment in additional renewable energy generation, such as solar farms or onshore wind, and enable ECC to source green renewable energy to power its offices and street lighting. This will give ECC some protection against energy price volatility and the potential to make long-term cost savings on our electricity bill.	£337,000 Revenue.				
Generating renewable energy on the public estate	Action plan to develop opportunities across ECC's public estate to generate renewable energy, including rooftop solar on our buildings, Essex Records Office (ERO) and 14 schools, solar canopies and ground mounted systems across the rest of our estate. Builds upon £140k EU funded scheme EMPOWER that delivered solar on Danbury Country Park, Danbury Primary and St John's Primary schools delivered in 2020/21.	Capital Grant funding Property Decarbonisation £6.65m 2021/22.		 		
Making Essex a centre for innovation in renewable energy – Local area energy decarbonisation	South East New Energy is a grant funded programme to tackle the barriers to local areas rapidly decarbonising their communities, buildings, and lives. The project will deliver pathfinder projects on affordable net zero housing and retrofit in domestic housing through communal solar and storage, as well as develop proposals for community ownership of large scale solar. It will identify and address barriers to delivering and financing projects at scale. ECC is working in partnership with Kent County Council.	SE New Energy Grant: £6.4m shared across Essex and Kent.	 	 		
Renewables policy	Action plans and planning policy guidance to support the development of renewable energy generation in the county including but not limited to solar farms, onshore wind, bioenergy, and hydrogen production.			 		
Solar Together	Solar Together is a unique group-buying scheme for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage. This scheme will make solar PV and batteries more accessible and more affordable for a great number of people. This is open to residents and SMEs. Solar Together delivered solar panels on 305 households: a £1.3m investment saving 7,150 tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the installations. Residents saved an average of 20% on market rates.	Management of the scheme by ECC resource.		  		

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Essex Energy Switch	<p>The Essex Energy Switch is a county-wide collective energy switching campaign designed to help Essex residents reduce their gas and electricity bills.</p> <p>We support residents in switching supplier through a collective energy switching campaign each year. 61,000 households have switched since 2014, saving more than £3.9m; on average £230 per household. 2020/21 campaign - 2,323 switched their energy tariffs; an average of £161 per household; 1,989 tonnes of CO₂ saved per year, 100% renewable electricity tariffs.</p>	<p>Management of the campaign by ECC resource.</p>		  		



6. Built Environment

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

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

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

Action is also being taken to train the trainers, and support the frontline town planners, building inspectors and elected members. Our research undertaken in 2020 revealed a huge appetite and demand for an ongoing programme of training, and access to best practice guidance as well as have technical specialists/ expertise to support the District Councils in the formulation of planning policies, the evaluation of technical evidence submitted, in order to push forward the new standards needed within the Local Planning Authorities Planning to deliver net zero new developments by the 2025 recommended target date.

Net Zero: making Essex Carbon Neutral recommendations include:



new schools to be net zero **by 2022**



new homes and commercial buildings to be net zero **by 2025**



all to be carbon positive **by 2030**













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













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















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




















Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Retrofitting homes and energy efficiency: supporting low-income households</p>	<p>Advice and grant support to Essex households on low income or in fuel poverty and in poorly insulated homes to retrofit their home and improve its energy efficiency, lowering carbon emissions but also improving the living conditions, making the home warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer and reducing energy bills.</p> <p>ECC received £776,000 in funding to support the development of an advice website with Citizens Advice Essex.</p> <p>ECC delivered fuel poor grants totalling £0.8m. Between Feb-Aug 2021 a communications campaign to promote this £800k funding was completed, ensuring over 80 Essex homes benefited from up to £10k worth of free energy efficiency improvements</p> <p>The South East Energy Hub currently holds a further £5.2m in grant funds to support retrofitting fuel poor homes. ECC has worked with 11 District, Borough and City authorities to bid for a further £17.2m in grant funding (outcome pending). Further funding is being promoted to ensure many more Essex homes can benefit. This is a grant funded programme delivered in partnership with the Districts and BEIS.</p> <p>ECC has further worked with social housing providers to bid for £2.58m to upgrade 769 housing association properties across Essex.</p>	<p>Green Homes Grant: £776,000 2021/22 Warm Homes Fund</p> <p>Grant: £800,000 2021/22. GHG LAD Phase 1a</p> <p>Marketing support provided by ECC resource for retrofit schemes.</p>	  	   		

















Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Retrofit Schools</p>	<p>We have a programme to roll out smart meters to ECC controlled schools to enable better tracking of energy usage across the schools' estate. To date, 125 maintained schools have a meter fitted: a further 47 are in train.</p> <p>By the end of 2021/22 we will have installed solar panels that will generate over ½ million kWh of energy - saving our schools £77,000 a year in energy costs. These high specification solar installations enable schools to track their energy usage and generation and provide great information for teachers to formulate lesson plans. This information, combined with the data from our gas and electric smart meter installations, can provide evidence for further improvement projects, as we can target specific wastage within the school – and enable monitoring and targeting to be put in place.</p> <p>This year, we have also been successful in receiving £1.8m of funding for double glazing, which has enabled upgrades across 15 sites – reducing their heating demand, and so their overall energy costs.</p> <p>We are funding a new team to support schools to develop a net zero investment plan to enable them to apply effectively for grant support for required investment.</p> <p>We will continue to seek funding opportunities, as well as utilising our schools' maintenance budget, to deliver improvements across the school estate.</p>	<p>£1.8m Window Glazing Grant secured 2021/22.</p> <p>Revenue New Investment, Carbon Education team £245,000 2022/23-2023/24</p>		    		
<p>Retrofit Academy</p>	<p>The Retrofit Academy Community Interest Company (CIC) in partnership with Essex County Council will run a project to support residents and businesses to create jobs and growth from making private properties more energy efficient.</p>	<p>Grant Award of £717,060.</p>	  	  		

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Essex Housing Carbon Zero housing pilot	<p>Essex Housing looks to exceed legal requirements for sustainability in all its developments. All private sale schemes delivered to date include photovoltaic panels, electric vehicle charging ports and ample cycle storage to encourage sustainable travel. Essex Housing is continually looking to build on this further and where viable, is now starting to bring forward schemes with air source heat pumps, as well as considering how we can best ensure biodiversity is unaffected, or even improved on schemes. Residential units at the next two schemes to be brought forward, Purford Green and Shenfield Library, are designed to achieve an EPC 'A' rating and a carbon neutral pilot scheme is also currently being identified. It is expected that the Future Home Standard will launch in 2025 and under this standard, CO₂ emissions will be at least 75% lower than homes built today and Essex Housing will continue to seek to exceed these standards wherever it can viably do so.</p> <p>Essex Housing IS bringing forward a pilot net zero – For Construction materials and in operation – development which will also give full consideration to climate resilience issues around flooding, water scarcity and overheating.</p>	Revenue New Investment £640,000 2022/23.	   	  		
New schools net zero	ECC has already commissioned a number of net zero carbon school expansions, the first of which was handed over for school use earlier this year. These pilot schemes will help ECC identify the best way to deliver net zero carbon school buildings in the future. As a minimum, all new school buildings are now being designed with an A+ EPC rating, pending results of the net zero carbon work.	Linked to schools retro fit to net zero, support provided by ECC resource.	  			

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Anchor Institution commitments	<p>ECC has a policy to transform its own estate to net zero by 2030. ECC will continue to work with other anchor intuitions which are also taking action on their estates.</p> <p>ECC is working with The Essex Partners and anchor institutions across Essex to establish a climate group to develop joint working in the delivery of Commission recommendations.</p>	<p>Capital Priority Recommended £3m Estate Retrofit 2022/23-2025/26.</p>	  	    	 	
Essex design guide climate change net zero Update	<p>At ECC, we have worked with planning authorities across Essex to produce the Essex Design Guide for development in Essex. We are now updating this to ensure it reflects best practise in both net zero and climate resilient homes.</p> <p>The first phase of this work has been to align existing guidance material within a new thematic climate change heading. The second phase of work underway is to provide best practice advice on climate change which addresses both the local authority officers and developers. This includes, be is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero (carbon) Development • Healthy Places (including Healthy Homes Standard) • Sustainability Design Guidance for example solar orientation • Delivering Garden Communities through TCPA principles • Cooling in Buildings and Public Places • Use of Smart Technology in Public Places e.g. reducing light pollution. • Delivering heritage retrofitting in development 	<p>£25,000 Revenue 2021/22.</p> <p>In addition, supported by ECC resource in Economic Growth Team.</p>	  			

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Essex Design Guide Climate Change – Walkable Neighbourhoods Guidance best practice	<p>A further section of the Design Guide is being written to provide best practice advice on Walkable Neighbourhoods - new neighbourhoods and streets designed to promote the use of walking, cycling and sustainable transport with the option of remote parking (includes commissioning of evidence base study).</p>					
Green Skills Infrastructure Review	<p>We have undertaken a Green Skills Infrastructure Review for Essex so as to provide an in-depth analysis of the existing skills and training provision and how it meets the needs of employers, providers, residents, ECC and partners/stakeholders. Specifically, the review will spotlight ways we can use existing or new or improved skills infrastructure to support the delivery of the Commission recommendations.</p> <p>A joint Stakeholder Action Plan with resource implications will recommend next steps for ECC and partners.</p>	<p>Drawdown from Climate Change Reserve £105,000 Revenue.</p>				

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Garden Communities	<p>ECC is working with planning authorities in Essex to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an evidence-based study, including a cost-benefit analysis, which examines the different ways to deliver a number of carbon saving scenarios through a combination of building fabric and technologies, including net zero carbon in new development proposals, as well as Garden Communities. • Develop Local Plans Toolkit. • Ensure that Garden Communities are built to the highest standards in terms of design, quality, and climate change adaptations. And make use of the Essex Design Guide climate change advice once completed. • Implement sustainable drainage solutions. • Deliver biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure gain. • Create walkable neighbourhoods and tree-lined streets. • Deliver carbon zero new schools (primary and secondary). • Deliver localised energy solutions. • Provide quality sustainable modes of transport which maximise modal shift to ensure 50% of trips use sustainable modes. • Deliver a long-term stewardship model that supports the quality of place created and is capable of sustaining this long term. 	<p>Drawdown from Climate Change Reserve £30,000 Revenue.</p>	    	    	  	
Prepare a Developers Climate Change Charter	<p>Work is underway by the Essex Developers Group and the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA) to produce a pan-Essex Charter which sets out what the construction and development industry will commit to move towards carbon zero development in Essex. ECC is providing a system leadership role to help make this work happen.</p> <p>The aim is to have all major developers that operate in Essex to sign-up to the Climate Change Charter.</p>	<p>The investment is ECC officer time and resource.</p>				

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Training for members and officers	<p>Training to provide an overview of Climate Change and Planning related matters to Essex Planners and Members across the county. Additional training in the delivery of Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) Assessments. This work has been commissioned and will commence in November and funded from the first CMA drawdown.</p>		  	  		
New - Establish Climate Action Planning Team to Build Back Better and help deliver on Net Zero new build recommendations	<p>New Investment to establish a Climate Action Planning Team (CAPT) of specialists/experts within Planning to advise and support district officers, as well as developers with new build housing and commercial standards, to deliver net zero. Climate change planning policies and support with advice on planning applications, and support the performance of building post-development. This team will also help deliver on net zero carbon housing demonstrator/pilot projects in each district.</p> <p>This new investment will provide ECC capacity and specialist knowledge to work with District, Borough & City Councils and ECC as a developer focusing on planning, housing, and estate managers. This will provide good design and appropriate challenge and support so that new build and development proposals positively contribute to meeting our climate change targets.</p>	<p>Revenue New Investment £699,000 2022/23-2025/26.</p>	   	  	 	





7. Transport

We will deliver a step change in sustainable travel across the county, by growing passenger transport and active travel, and we will ensure we support the move towards net zero.

All our work is delivered in partnership, either with districts, central government or suppliers and is aligned with the transport priorities within Everyone's Essex.

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

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

We have also taken two proposals for famous congestion hotspot the Army & Navy junction out to public consultation. Rather than simply build another road junction for cars, we have focused on developing

a solution for people, following best practice guidance for walking and cycling routes. This is being developed in conjunction with local MPs, Parish and City Councils, the DfT, Essex Highways, Jacobs and Highways England.

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

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

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

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

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

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

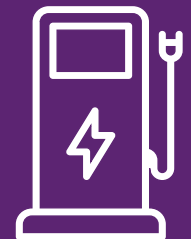
1,300 residents

given a free new bike
courtesy of Essex
Pedal Power
















Electric scooter trials
in 6 locations have
delivered nearly
500,000 trips




We will be developing
our Alternative Fuels
strategy, rolling out
**electric
charge points**



Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Active Travel</p>	<p>Active Travel includes dedicated cycleways, walkable neighbourhoods and school streets. We aim to encourage modal shift to active travel by improving cycling infrastructure to all stations and develop a coherent network across the county, increase walking through the development of walkable neighbourhoods and encourage active travel in young people through the creation of school streets.</p> <p>During Covid we introduced semi-permanent segregated cycle paths and we recently completed public consultations on five active travel schemes, worth £8M. These schemes will reallocate road space to provide more space for people walking and cycling, provide public realm improvements, and implement 10 school streets. The schemes will be implemented in Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Brentwood and Wickford by Summer 2022. These schemes were developed in partnership with the local districts, businesses, access groups and local residents.</p> <p>In addition ECC Is directly investing £x to develop new cycle paths across the county.</p> <p>We launched our first Walking Strategy in September 2021.</p>	<p>Capital Grant £50,000 received 2020/21</p> <p>Revenue Grant received £919,000 2020/21</p> <p>Service Improvement Reserve £61,000 Revenue 2021/22.</p> <p>Active Travel Grant funding Rev: £2.42m Capital: £5.95m</p>	 	 		
<p>Cycle Assets Renewal</p>	<p>The purpose of this programme is to ensure that existing cycle infrastructure is brought up to standard and is safe and fit for purpose and is therefore attractive to users. Capital investment for asset renewal of cycleways across the County – business case submitted to Capital Challenge on 20th Sept</p>	<p>Capital Priorities Recommended £3.0m 2022/23- 2025/26.</p>		 		

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
Highways LED	<p>Complete replacement of all street lighting lanterns with LED units, which will result in a significant energy saving, and therefore carbon reduction. We are currently one year into the programme with 50,000 units replaced out of a lighting stock of 130,000 units. The programme has prioritised units where the greatest energy saving can be achieved.</p> <p>During COVID-19, we introduced semi-permanent segregated cycle paths and we recently completed public consultations on five active travel schemes, worth £8m. These schemes will reallocate road space to provide more space for people walking and cycling, provide public realm improvements, and implement ten school streets. The schemes have been implemented in Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Brentwood and Wickford by Summer 2022. These schemes were developed in partnership with the local districts, businesses, access groups and local residents.</p>	<p>Capital (Phase 2, 3, 4)</p> <p>Programme: £26.87m 2021/22-2024/25.</p> <p>ECC Funding: 100%</p>				
Warm Tarmac pilot	<p>Essex Highways is trialling warm tarmac, which it is hoped will become the standard material for inlay surfacing. This form of asphalt is better for the environment because it uses less energy when it is being mixed and laid. This one simple switch is expected to significantly reduce carbon emissions and work is underway to quantify this saving.</p>	<p>Within existing Capital Programme.</p>				

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

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

8. Waste

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

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

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









We have already
committed to zero
waste to landfill
by 2030





We are
relaunching our
**Recycling
Centres**
by bringing this
service in-house

We are working
towards a more
**circular
economy**



Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>New Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)</p>	<p>To develop a future vision and approach for waste in Essex which aligns with the ECAC recommendations to minimise waste, maximise recycling and embed a circular economy in Essex.</p> <p>This joint strategy with the Essex Borough, City and District Councils will develop the strategic framework needed to deliver this vision. It will identify the policy, infrastructure and service requirements and implement the required action plan to deliver this.</p> <p>The initial assessment (during year one) will model different delivery options to enable a preferred approach to be identified and public consultation to occur.</p> <p>The strategy, policy changes and actions plan to deliver the strategy will be adopted and delivered during year two.</p>	<p>Existing Revenue programme 2021/22-2024/25 £180,000 (external consultancy) for initial modelling and options appraisal.</p>	 	  		
<p>Bio-waste Contract Procurement</p>	<p>The purpose of this activity is to secure the necessary future treatment capacity for green garden waste and food waste generated in Essex and collected by Essex Councils.</p> <p>This will enable Essex to divert this waste away from disposal and meet the ECAC recommendation to ensure all biowaste is put to beneficial use by composting it or using it to generate bio-gas.</p>	<p>Delivery investment for the procurement is primarily existing officer time.</p> <p>Current Revenue programme 2021/22-2024/25</p> <p>£26.29m (Bio-waste treatment costs)</p>		 		

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy</p>	<p>BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy is an Interreg-funded European project led by Essex County Council.</p> <p>The circular economy encourages the efficient use of resources when manufacturing products and the ‘designing out’ of waste from systems. It also promotes the re-use, repair, refurbishment and recycling of products for as long as possible with minimal waste. The project will support local authorities to move to a more circular economy by identifying current barriers and developing a policy framework for adoption.</p> <p>The project will also support training opportunities to assist individuals and support organisations within the circular economy.</p> <p>ECC is the lead authority for the project working with multiple local authorities across UK & Europe.</p>	<p>Grant Revenue 2020/21 £3.87m - across partnership.</p> <p>ECC £912,000 2021/22-2023/24.</p>	  	   		
<p>Love Essex</p>	<p>Love Essex is an initiative developed and shared by the Essex Waste Partnership – a collaboration of ECC, District, Borough and City Councils across Essex - to collaborate county-wide on the delivery of waste projects with residents, businesses and schools.</p> <p>The Love Essex programme aims to inspire behaviour change and encourage residents to reduce waste and litter. Love Essex campaigns support reusable hygiene products, cloth nappies, recycling, composting and Library of Things projects across Essex. The team use social media platforms and the Love Essex website to engage along with community volunteering activities.</p>	<p>Current Programme £2.14m Revenue 2021/22-2024/25.</p> <p>Drawdown from Service Improvement Reserve £52,000 Revenue.</p>		  		



9. Community Engagement

9.1. Finance

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

9.2. Summary of Activity

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

- Formal communications
- Stakeholder engagement
- Community engagement

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

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

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



Total financial commitments:
£1.57m to 2025/26

A media release

will be issued after each Commission meeting



More formal **social media** activity will be undertaken

Formal Communications

Key characteristics:

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

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

The Commission recommended that we invest in research to identify Essex audience groups and develop more targeted communications. Extensive research to underpin future communications was undertaken in the first half of 2021 looking into the attitudes of Essex residents and their willingness to undertake action on climate change. This research has been shared across District, Borough and City Councils across Essex.





Alongside this, there was a public consultation on many of the Commission's key recommendations, the results of which were published as the community engagement annexe to the Commission's report, **Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral**.

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

ECC is working with the Essex Association of Local Councils, offering a series of climate-related webinars in order to help address the recommendation that local authorities should align on messaging around climate.

The Net Zero Innovation Network has already been established, as recommended by the Commission, to bring together businesses and anchor institutions to develop innovative climate solutions within the county.

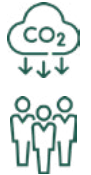

ECC has started to develop climate action packs for specific groups such as residents, schools and businesses, to give practical advice on how each of us can play our part in tackling climate change. In September 2021, we also began rolling out a series of webinars to support town and parish councils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


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




ECC was proud to become an official partner in **Ashden's Let's Go Zero** campaign to encourage schools across the county to become carbon zero by 2030.







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

9.3. Communication and Education





Initiative	Description	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Advice Packs</p>	<p>We are producing advice packs aiming at different audiences explaining to them the impact climate change is having, what they can do about it and how to get involved. Initially, we are producing packs for residents, schools and businesses.</p>				
<p>Low Carbon Bus Event</p>	<p>Wednesday 1 September saw the COP26 Carbon Battle Bus arrive in Essex, as it made its way across the county in the build-up to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which took place in Glasgow in November.</p> <p>The bus stopped off at the GRIDSERVE Electric Forecourt in Braintree, where an event was held by the Essex Climate Action Commission. The event showcased some of the action that is being taken both around the county and locally in Braintree in the fight against climate change.</p> <p>The event featured talks from Toddington Harper, Chief Executive at GRIDSERVE, alongside representatives from Essex County Council, Braintree District Council, Brentwood Borough Council and the Net Zero Innovation Network (NZIN).</p> <p>Following the completion of the event, Cllr Kevin Bentley and Cllr Graham Butland, leaders of Essex County Council and Braintree District Council respectively, planted a tree on the GRIDSERVE site to symbolise the commitment to climate action around the county.</p> <p>A full recording of the event can be found on the <u>Essex Climate Action Commission's YouTube channel</u>.</p> <p>A further event at GRIDSERVE took place on Oct 29th, which brought together local government and business leaders from across the East of England.</p>				

Initiative	Description	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Carbon App</p>	<p>The Essex Climate Action Commission is currently about to start the procurement process for a carbon counting app, which tracks an individual's carbon footprint, suggests ways to reduce their carbon footprint and rewards actions by awarding carbon credits they take to mitigate the footprint.</p> <p>Retailers, hospitality and other relevant businesses in Essex would be encouraged to sign up to accept the carbon credits and provide an environmentally friendly reward. An ECC reward could be a free water butt or composting bin, for example. A retailer could give a reusable coffee or water cup etc.</p> <p>Versions of the app would also be available to schools and businesses.</p> <p>The Commission aims to find a pre-existing app that we could white label.</p> <p>Why</p> <p>We need to become a net zero county by 2050. Individual residents have a large role to play in helping us achieve that. The app would be a way to engage residents, schools and businesses and get data on who is doing what and measure the level of success.</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The app will engage and inform residents about small changes they can make to their daily life to offset their carbon footprint. • It would reduce the county's carbon footprint. • It would give residents a way to engage and participate in climate change action. • It would encourage behaviour change. • It would reward positive behaviour. 				

Initiative	Description	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Carbon Literacy Programme</p>	<p>Essex County Council is currently procuring training for members and officers to increase their knowledge of climate change, how it impacts Essex and what they can do to tackle it. It is imperative that key members and officers fully understand climate change and the need for the county to become net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Key members and officers also need to understand how the county can reduce carbon emissions to become net zero by 2050</p> <p>The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has funded the Carbon Literacy Project to provide a series of open-source materials, the first of which was an all-employee programme which has been designed and published.</p> <p>There are a number of different courses which have been developed or are in development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generic Staff Course • Leadership and Management Course • Elected Members Course • Parish and Town Councils Course – Coming Soon • Community Leaders Course – Coming Soon • Pension Fund Trustees and Managers Course – Coming Soon 				
<p>TryLife Project</p>	<p>ECC has commissioned TryLife to produce an interactive app aimed at young people. The app has been co-produced with young people in schools and will teach them about the causes, impacts and effects of climate change locally and globally, as well as teaching them about advancements in policy and technology in this area. The aim is to empower young people to make choices that have a positive impact in terms of climate change.</p>				

Initiative	Description	Align ECC strategic aims			
<p>Schools' Sustainability Kit</p>	<p>200 kits will be developed for young people aged 5-11, along with 50 school kits, working with the young co-chairs of the Essex Climate Action Commission to help author and promote a sustainability kit for schools and young people. Schools would compete to win one of the sustainability kits.</p> <p>Kits will be comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildflower seeds to plant • Composting tips • Activity handbooks with quizzes, i-spy style games • Plastic free stickers • 20 things I can do to save the planet poster <p>The aim is to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 Essex schools supported to teach young people about sustainability and climate change • 200 young people engaged in learning about climate change • Carbon reduction through activities young people engage in • Inspiring the next generation and harnessing young people's interest in climate change. • Educating young people about climate change • A reduction in the county's carbon footprint 				
<p>Warm Homes Essex Website Promotion</p>	<p>We will continue to work alongside the Citizens Advice Service to promote “Warm Homes Essex”. This initiative sees a team of specialist energy advisers operating across the county who work with clients identified as being in “fuel poverty” and help them to improve their financial and physical circumstances. Work to revamp the website has been undertaken and the website will be relaunched later this year.</p>				
<p>ECAC Website</p>	<p>Maintaining the administration and support of the ECAC website and Officer time.</p>				

9.4. Empowering our Communities

Initiative	Description	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Essex is Green & Essex Changemakers	<p>Essex Is Green social media channels actively engage and inspire thousands of residents online to get involved and tackle climate change, reaching over 10 million newsfeeds since we launched last July and over 8,000 followers since September 2021.</p> <p>Changemakers group was opened where over 100 Essex admins or local community group leaders could meet to work and learn together to achieve their shared goals of fighting climate change and improving the environment.</p>				
Resident Research Work	<p>Annual research to benchmark residents' attitudes to climate change and measure positive progress and attitudinal change among Essex residents.</p>				
Community Led Action	<p>The new £500k Climate Action Challenge Fund for local community groups and schools, gives the opportunity to apply for up to £20,000 of funding to deliver activities that respond to key climate challenges in Essex. Funding is available until March 2023. www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities</p>				
EALC webinars	<p>ECC is hosting a series of webinars for EALC members across the various themes of the Commission's work to help encourage and support action at parish and town council level. The series of workshops began in September 2021 and will be rolled out bi-monthly between now and the end of 2022.</p>				



10. Supporting Our Businesses








Essex County Council has made a strategic commitment in its organisation strategy (Everyone’s Essex), to ensure that it delivers a Strong, Inclusive & Stable Economy, as well as a High Quality Environment.

The strategy encompasses 20 commitments, including Good Jobs, Net Zero and Green Growth. Fostering, developing and sustaining green growth in the county is central to our strategy for regional economic growth.

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

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

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

Initiative	Description	Financial commitment	Align ECC Strategic aims			
Net Zero Innovation Network (NZIN)	<p>NZIN will bring together individuals from a wide range of education and business sectors across Essex. The aim is to support partnerships and drive innovation, helping Essex achieve its target of being a net zero carbon emissions county by 2050. The Network develop and deliver new projects which will be defined and owned by Network members. There is a particular focus on themes emerging from the Essex Climate Action Commission including: transport, energy, waste, the built environment, and land use and green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Revenue New Investment £1.95m 2022/23-2025/26.</p>				
Green Growth	<p>Essex County Council is looking to support the growth of businesses within Essex to enable a thriving economy in the medium and long term. This means not only supporting green businesses, but encouraging all business to be green. There are particular opportunities which will secure investment from the Government and the private sector, but only if we can produce the evidence and analysis to support the business cases/ test cases needed. ECC will also need to lead the market showing the opportunity to business, via leveraging its purchasing power, and that of fellow anchor institutions to facilitate Green Business Growth within Essex.</p>					
Supporting Essex SMEs with green projects and reducing their carbon emissions	<p>Low Carbon Across the South and East (LOCASE) is an ERDF grant funded programme helping businesses with ‘green’ projects, such as energy efficiency, or supporting SMEs in the low carbon sector.</p> <p>Since the programme started in 2016, £2.6m has been awarded to 397 businesses with an estimated 2,902 tonnes CO₂ equivalent emissions reduction and £992,534 cost savings per annum within Greater Essex (including Southend and Thurrock). Further funding has been secured for the partnership to extend the delivery of support to SMEs until June 2023, with an expected £2.7m of grants available to Greater Essex businesses.</p>	<p>Grant: £6.4m funding (across the South East LEP)</p> <p>Drawdown from Service Improvement Reserve £38,000 Revenue 2021/22.</p>				

11. Evaluation and Monitoring

We have already committed to producing annual reports to track:

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

Aligning with the organisational strategy, Everyone's Essex, there will be a suite of KPIs supporting the High Quality Environment strategic aim reporting on a quarterly basis.

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

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

12. Summary Finance Schedule

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

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

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

Total external funding and financial commitment of £192.7m including external grant funding (subject to offer) and staff costs to 2025/26. This includes the request for additional revenue investment of £10.3m and Capital investment of £6.5m to 2025/26.

Finance view by Activity:

Financial Commitments - Prioritised	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Flood resilience	6,571		1,171	1,750	1,700	1,950	-
Highways LED Rollout (Phase 2/3/4)	26,870		6,506	7,547	7,547	5,270	-
Active Travel	2,137		1,656	481			
Cycling Infrastructure	4,750			750	2,000	2,000	
Electric Vehicle Strategy	400		200	200			
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
	-		-	-	-	-	-
Estate Retrofit Core	3,000		-	750	750	750	750
Bus Back Better	500		-	500	-	-	-
Cycling Assets Renewal	3,000		-	750	750	750	750
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Capital Excl Grants	47,228	-	9,533	12,728	12,747	10,720	1,500
Love Essex	2,141		678	480	488	495	-
Biowaste contracts	26,285		5,615	6,702	6,889	7,079	-
Compost Credits	8,330		1,961	2,040	2,122	2,207	-
Inter Authorisation Agreements	30,636		7,323	7,542	7,769	8,002	-
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
	-		-	-	-	-	-
Climate Team Staffing	699			206	206	206	81
Climate Communications & Engagement	1,566			495	558	432	81
Environment - Essex Forest Initiative	220			55	55	55	55

Financial Commitments - Prioritised	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Highways - Request for Green Infrastructure maintenance reserve	1,925			220	330	550	825
Planning - Build ECC capacity to support new build standards across Essex	820			220	200	200	200
Essex Housing Hargrave House	640			640			
Transport - updating of transport policy for climate challenge	675			675			
Supporting our businesses - Sustainable growth, sector development and net zero innovation	1,950			493	493	493	471
Supporting our Businesses - reduction carbon education	245		-	125	120	-	-
Transport - Behaviour Change; Safer, Healthier and Greener	450		-	450	-	-	-
Land Use and Green infrastructure - Local Nature Partnerships	267		-	89	89	89	-
Transport - Bus back better	884		-	221	221	221	221
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018			
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458				
Service team staff charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
Total Revenue Excl Grants	91,036	84	19,402	23,693	21,623	22,174	4,144
	0	-	-	0	0	0	-
TOTAL Excl Grants	138,264	84	28,935	36,421	34,370	32,895	5,644

Financial Commitments - Prioritised	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Capital Externally Funded:							
Flood management REFCUS	6,547		1,147	1,750	1,700	1,950	-
Green Infrastructure Fund	2,500		-	-	500	1,000	1,000
Flood Alleviation Scheme - Env Agency	1,973		1,973	-	-	-	-
Decarbonisation Scheme 1	6,282		6,282	-	-	-	-
Decarbonisation Scheme 2	226		226	-	-	-	-
Decarbonisation Scheme 3	4,860		4,860	-	-	-	-
Low Carbon Skills fund	146		146	-	-	-	-
Green Homes Capital Grant - BEIS	776		776	-	-	-	-
Grant: £0.8m GHG LAD Phase 1a	800		800	-	-	-	-
Grant: £5.2m GHG LAD Phase 2	5,200		-	5,200	-	-	-
Grant: £17.2m Sustainable Warmth bid (outcome pending)	17,200		-	17,200	-	-	-
Window glazing grant	1,800		1,800	-	-	-	-
Active Travel - DfT	5,950		-	5,950	-	-	-
Essex Forest initiative - LA Treescape fund	300		300				
Capital Externally Funded	54,558	-	18,308	30,100	2,200	2,950	1,000
Total Capital Incl Grants	101,786	-	27,841	42,828	14,947	13,670	2,500

Financial Commitments - Prioritised	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018			
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458				
Revenue Externally Funded:							
Blueprint Circular Economy Interreg France. Partnership	3,873		3,873	-	-	-	-
Clean Bus Tech Fund - DfT	443		443	-	-	-	-
Retrofit Academy	717		359	359			
Active Travel	2,419		2,419	-	-	-	-
Revenue Externally Funded	7,453	-	7,094	359	-	-	-
Total Revenue Incl Grants	88,065	45	24,533	22,029	19,540	20,029	1,934
							-
Staff Team Charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
TOTAL Inc Grants	200,275	84	54,337	66,879	36,570	35,845	6,644

Finance view by funding stream:

Financial Commitments - Prioritised	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Capital Excl Grants	47,228	-	9,533	12,728	12,747	10,720	1,500
Love Essex	2,141		678	480	488	495	-
Biowaste contracts	26,285		5,615	6,702	6,889	7,079	-
Compost Credits	8,330		1,961	2,040	2,122	2,207	-
Inter Authorisation Agreements	30,636		7,323	7,542	7,769	8,002	-
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Essex Plan Reserve	6,230			2,303	1,078	1,298	1,551
Climate Change Reserve	2,265			701	764	638	162
Transformation Reserve	695			575	120	-	-
Additional funding in MTRS	1,151			310	310	310	221
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018			
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458				
Service team staff charges (Existing ECC Staff)	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
Total Revenue Excl Grants	91,036	84	19,402	23,693	21,623	22,174	4,144
TOTAL Excl Grants	138,264	84	28,935	36,421	34,370	32,895	5,644

Financial Commitments - Prioritised	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Capital MTRS	40,728	-	9,533	10,728	11,247	9,220	-
Capital Priorities Recommended	6,500	-	-	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Capital Externally Funded	54,558	-	18,308	30,100	2,200	2,950	1,000
Total Capital Incl Grants	101,786	-	27,841	42,828	14,947	13,670	2,500
Revenue MTRS	67,392	7	15,577	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Revenue New Inv	10,341	38	-	3,889	2,272	2,246	1,934
First CMA drawdown Climate Reserve	2,422		1,405	1,018			
Service Improvement Reserve	458		458				
Revenue Externally Funded:							
Blue print Circular Economy Interreg France Partnership	3,873		3,873	-	-	-	-
Clean Bus Tech Fund - Dft	443		443	-	-	-	-
Retrofit Academy	717		359	359			
Active Travel	2,419		2,419	-	-	-	-
Revenue Externally Funded	7,453	-	7,094	359	-	-	-
Total Revenue Incl Grants	88,065	45	24,533	22,029	19,540	20,029	1,934
Staff Team Charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
TOTAL Inc Grants	200,275	84	54,337	66,879	36,570	35,845	6,644

The breakdown of external funding is shown below:

EXTERNAL FUNDING - MTRS / PIPELINE	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Capital Externally Funded							
MTRS	6,547	-	1,147	1,750	1,700	1,950	-
Pipeline	42,062	-	17,162	22,400	500	1,000	1,000
Total External Capital	48,608	-	18,308	24,150	2,200	2,950	1,000
	-5,950	-	0	-5,950	-	-	-
Revenue Externally Funded							
MTRS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Inv	7,454	-	7,095	359	-	-	-
Total External Revenue	7,454	-	7,095	359	-	-	-
	1	-	0	0	-	-	-
Total External Funding	56,062	-	25,403	24,509	2,200	2,950	1,000

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

EXTERNAL FUNDING - MTRS / PIPELINE	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Land Use & Green Infrastructure							
Total Capital	17,890		4,590	3,500	3,900	4,900	1,000
Total Revenue	3,228	5	400	780	474	694	880
Total Land Use and Green Infrastructure	21,118	5	4,991	4,280	4,374	5,594	1,880
Waste							
Total Capital	-		-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	71,316	7	19,501	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Total Waste	71,316	7	19,501	16,764	17,268	17,783	-
Energy							
Total Capital	35,489		13,089	22,400	-	-	-
Total Revenue	1,679	2	879	705	95	-	-
Total Energy	37,168	2	13,968	23,105	95	-	-
Built Environment							
Total Capital	4,800	-	1,800	750	750	750	750
Total Revenue	1,590	3	130	860	200	200	200
Total Built Environment	6,390	3	1,930	1,610	950	950	950

EXTERNAL FUNDING - MTRS / PIPELINE	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Transport							
Capital MTRS	33,757		8,162	8,778	9,547	7,270	
Capital Pipeline	3,900		200	1,450	750	750	750
Capital External MTRS							
Capital External Pipeline	-		-				
Capital Externally Funded	5,950		-	5,950			
Total Capital	43,607	-	8,362	16,178	10,297	8,020	750
Revenue MTRS	-		-	-	-	-	
Revenue New Inv	2,235	6	143	1,428	221	221	221
Revenue External MTRS							
Revenue External New Investments	2,862		2,862				
Revenue Externally Funded	2,862		2,862				
Total Revenue	5,097	6	3,006	1,428	221	221	221
Total Transport	48,705	6	11,368	17,606	10,518	8,241	971
Empowering our Communities							
Capital MTRS	-		-	-	-	-	
Capital Pipeline	-		-	-	-	-	-
Capital Externally Funded	-					-	
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue MTRS	-		-	-	-	-	

EXTERNAL FUNDING - MTRS / PIPELINE	£000's Total ECC	FTE	£000's 2021/22	DRAFT MTRS			
				£000's 2022/23	£000's 2023/24	£000's 2024/25	£000's 2025/26
Revenue New Inv	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Empowering our Communities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supporting our Businesses							
Total Capital	-		-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	2,195	10	-	618	613	493	471
Total supporting our Businesses	2,195	10	-	618	613	493	471
Communication and Education							
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	2,332	10	302	560	669	638	162
Total Communication and Education	2,332	10	302	560	669	638	162
Community Engagement							
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	629	2	314	314	-	-	-
Total Community Engagement	629	2	314	314	-	-	-
Team Staff charges	10,424	39	1,963	2,022	2,083	2,145	2,210
TOTAL	200,276	84	54,338	66,880	36,570	35,845	6,644

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

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

This information is issued by:
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