

CLIMATE & NATURE ACTION PLAN 2025

Core Aim 1: Net zero and climate resilient council by 2030
 Core Aim 2: At least 30% of the district is well managed for nature and protected by 2030
 Core Aim 3: The wider district is on a pathway to net zero by 2030

Key

Completed or on track- no current risk
Potential issues or low risks that require monitoring
Significant issues and risks to time/resources/budget

Action reference (TBC)	ACTION	Action meets which Core Aim?	Action Area Objective	Action Area Target (if relevant) TBC	Is the action an adaptation or mitigation measure or does it do both?	PORTFOLIO HOLDER	Are RESOURCES available?	DATE FOR COMPLETION	2024/2025 Update	RAG
Sustainable Council										
SC1	Make council buildings & employment practice reflect sustainability values e.g. develop training for staff on climate change and carbon reduction, including senior managers & cabinet; offices have sustainably sourced supplies & exemplary recycling provision.	Core Aim 1	Visible leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for innovation, delivery and people & Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources Training budget to be determined	Ongoing	Carbon Literacy and Adaptation training for senior managers and councillors was held in March 2025, building knowledge of adaptation and climate resilience. Linked to the new service level risk assessments completed as part of the Business Planning process.	
SC2	Increase visibility of climate nature strategy on LDC website and deliver a weekly communications programme in press, news bulletins and social media sharing progress across the district.	Core Aim 2	Visible leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Projects and initiatives connected to the climate and nature strategy feature multiple times a week on LDC social media, in Latest News email bulletins and press releases issued for higher profile activity led by the council. The LDC climate and sustainability web content is frequently updated and has been given advanced design features compared to the rest of the council website.	
SC3	Develop and then measure the impact of sustainability and social value procurement strategy (includes development of sustainability checklist for specifications)	Core Aim 1	Visible Leadership Climate Change and impact on nature is embedded in all council decision making Community Wealth principles are embedded within council processes	TSC1	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet Members for Climate, Nature and Food Systems & Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	2024- measurement to begin 2025	Sustainable procurement policy has been produced and a procurement strategy approved at July 2025 Cabinet outlining how procurement aligns with our climate and nature strategy.	
SC4	Assess and determine key climate risks	Core Aim 1	Visible Leadership Council services are prepared for and resilient to climate change impacts.	TSC3	Adaptation	Cabinet Members for Climate, Nature and Food Systems & Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	Vulnerability assessment to start in April 2025 and to conclude for initial sample sites by Summer 2025- work will continue to assess other assets into 2026 as work allows	
SC5	Develop adaptation strategies for key council buildings and land.	Core Aim 1	Visible Leadership Council services are prepared for and resilient to climate change impacts.	TSC4	Adaptation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth & Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Introduced at staff and Councillor training sessions in March 2025. Adaptation strategy to begin with the vulnerability assessment (SC4) of Marine Workshops, and Robinson Road Waste service in April 2025 (see SC4).	
SC6	Develop a decision making tool (to replace existing Environmental Implications Statement) to improve climate and nature outcomes with regards to council projects and decisions	Core Aim 1	Climate change and impact on nature is embedded in all council decision-making	TSC2	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Climate, Nature and Food Systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	A tool has been investigated during December 2024 and is being adapted for use by the council. This will be rolled out during 2025. It links with the new Risk & Impact Policy.	
SC7	Influence and lobby regionally and at government level for climate action	All	Visible leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Two motions have been passed for Lewes District Council at Lewes District Council Full Council, - 30/09/2024 - Motion - Creating a new Local-National Partnership to Achieve the UK's Climate and Net Zero Ambitions and Maximise Benefits for Local Communities - 04/03/2025 - Motion - Support for an Enhanced Democratic Devolution Process for SUssex and Brighton, including climate change and nature recommendations. Ministerial meeting to be arranged on water and planning topics- see WRS4	
SC8	Ensuring adaptation to climate change (including flooding, overheating, erosion, food shortages) is embedded within Sussex-wide emergency planning	Core Aim 3	Visible leadership Council services are prepared for and resilient to climate change impacts		Adaptation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	Officers are part of the Sussex wide emergency planning group, and the East Sussex Climate Change and Vulnerability Assessment was completed in 2024. It will be used to guide the development of the Climate Emergency Road Map to address Climate Change across the region.	
SC9	Review methods for scope 3 reporting and then work out and report our scope 3 emissions and a path to reduce them.	Core Aim 1	Visible leadership	TSC5	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	Scope 3 emissions will continue to be expanded where possible- see report	
SC10	Develop grants programme to invest in nature and community projects	Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	£50,000	2025	LDC provided £50k towards the OVCA Community Pitch Grant, this enabled this grant to be opened up to the entire district, not just the OVCA area. Community applications were submitted by March 2025 and assessment followed from April 2025 to agree terms of award.	
SC11	Develop and fund projects to support strategic aims	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	£50,000	2025	Secured £33k for LDC to identify decarbonisation opportunities for Marine Workshops and Leisure sites. Presented costed proposals of Green Consultancy projects and Regeneration project at Fort Road Recreation Ground for LDC Social Value contributors.	
SC12	Seek out grant funding opportunities	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Drawing together funding opportunities and support networks for organisation to bid for grants. Identifying government funding for decarbonisation and optimising social value contributions from the commercial sector.	
SC13	Develop and maintain knowledge sharing networks to make best use of opportunities to learn and work together solving local government wide challenges	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Active in groups such as- Greater Brighton groups, East Sussex Climate Change Officer group, Hydrogen Sussex, Regional transport groups, East Sussex Housing Retrofit Strategy development group, and East Sussex Members Group.	
SC14 (NEW)	Update partners casestudy template so we can collect information on how the organisation has been supported by the council, did they achieve what they wanted to achieve in the past year, if not why not, what are next year plans etc.	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	Template has been updated to gather information for the 2025 Climate and Nature Partnership Event.	COMPLETED
SC15 (NEW)	Agree strategy and method for carbon offsetting	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	To be determined	2030	Various regional projects have taken place to begin assessing the potential for offsetting to happen locally (as reported in previous updates) - No updates recently.	
SC16 (NEW)	Determine if a district wide climate vulnerability register is worth completing and if partners would like to be involved- could lead to a district specific set of key risks and vulnerabilities to be read alongside the East Sussex Risk Assessment.	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 3	Visible Leadership		Adaptation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026/27	To be scoped out by end of 2025	NEW

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Energy & the built environment										
Actions to be completed by the council to make its operations and services sustainable and meet net zero by 2030										
EB1	Consider sustainability measures such as reducing energy use and water consumption in all capital projects, e.g., Stanley Turner changing rooms and Fort Road refurbishment.	Core Aim 1	Reduced emissions from council assets	TEB1 TEB2	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28 for asset management projects £3.39m	Ongoing	Stanley Turner – new energy efficient LED lighting and modern efficient water cylinders installed. WAVE granted £943k for a range of environmental improvements across the leisure estate including lighting upgrades, pool covers and installation of green technology.	
EB2	Explore funding for carbon reduction and heat decarbonisation plans for non-housing council owned buildings and assets, (such as commercial property).	Core Aim 1	Reduced emissions from council assets	TEB1 TEB2	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Exploration can be delivered using existing resources-funding for the plans is to be determined	Ongoing	Prepared for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant and wider financing mechanisms. Government withdrew the grant pot in June 2025. New funding options are being explored. Decarbonisation work mentioned in SC11 incorporates funding options and is due to be completed in Early Autumn 2025 in time for 26/27 budget setting (if required).	
EB3	Feasibility study to assess retrofitting of councils listed historic buildings in partnership with Community Energy South & OVESCO.	Core Aim 1	Reduced emissions from council assets	TEB1 TEB2	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Resourced by CES	2025	OVESCO completed the feasibility study for Lewes House and School Hill House. The recommendations report has been reviewed internally and next steps developed in consultation with Greater South East Net Zero Hub. Developing a funding proposal for SDNP Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.	
EB4	Redevelopment of Robinson Road Depot in Newhaven to become a fully electric site, removing gas heating.	Core Aim 1	Reduced emissions from council assets	TEB1 TEB2	Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood wellbeing	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28- total budget £4.2m	2026-2028	Secured planning for the 'satellite site', works start on site in summer 2025 and expected to be completed end of 2025. The Environment First Food Waste Collection electric vehicle fleet are to operate from the satellite site in the new year. Robinson Road, submitted planning to start works on site by end of 2025. On target to meet electricity demand. Substation installed for future capacity. Plus installation of air source heat pumps and PV panels onsite if viable.	
EB5	Implement £1m programme of decarbonisation measures at WAVE leisure centres e.g., rooftop Solar PV at Seahaven Swim and Fitness Centre	Core Aim 1	Reduced emissions from council assets	TEB6	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Arts, Culture and Leisure	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28 - £1m	2025	Planned works completed, and ongoing opportunities are being assessed over the coming year. Project included: Pool covers and ultra efficient pool circulation systems at: -Lewes Leisure Centre and -Seahaven Swim and Fitness Centre with additional funding secured by the Council Tourist & Culture team from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support fund. Installation of ultra-efficient pool circulation pumps and more efficient air handling units at Ringmer pool LED lighting for: -Lewes Leisure Centre in the Pool hall, the external flood lights and the foyer lighting system. -Downs Leisure Centre's floodlights across all the external astroturf football pitches, and upgraded in the 3 studios. -Peacehaven's gyms Installed a voltage optimisation unit at Peacehaven Leisure Centre. Lewes Leisure Centre school gym ceiling replaced with better insulation. Solar feasibility being progressed in summer 2025.	
EB6	Delivery of low energy strategy, including renewables, green walls & reduced water use at the new Reimagining Newhaven Health and Wellbeing Hub	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 3	Reduced emissions from council assets		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28- Regeneration budget	2025 Update to 2026	On target, all renewable electric supply and green walls planned are on time for delivery, anticipated completion is Summer 2026.	
EB7	Seek resources to implement retrofit findings from ambitious Decarbonising our Housing Stock Programme, to get all council owned housing to a minimum EPC C by 2030 e.g., via Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and appropriate grants when available. This is likely to involve working in partnership.	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced	TEB4	Mitigation	Cabinet member for tenants and those in housing need & Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	£2.7million allocated to date (£2m SHDF grant)	2030	Successfully secured funding from the Government Wave 3 Social Housing (2024) grant for over £600k (to be matched by capital budget) to help improve the energy performance of over 60 LDC social housing properties. Continuing to investigate	
EB8	Development of the 'Lewes District Councils New Homes Principles' and implement on a scheme by scheme basis.	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced	TEB3	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	2024	Closed	CLOSED
EB9	Ensure the council continues to purchase 100% renewable electricity through its central contract	Core Aim 1	Reduced emissions from council assets		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	2027	The new contract, from October 2024 to March 2026 is 100% renewable electricity and all future contracts will have this requirements.	
EB18 (NEW)	Implement the 'Lewes District Councils New Homes Principles' on a scheme by scheme basis and complete an annual review.	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced	TEB3	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Assessed against all new developments alongside looking at options for accreditation. Pilot the new BREEM residential accreditation for in-fill garage site and viability to assess schemes to be above building regulations and provide accreditation. The accreditation includes points for food waste management covering internal storage, and composting facilities such as a collection service. Review this before end of 2026	
EB19 (NEW)	Investigate viability of attaining Home Quality Mark (BRE) accreditation: for newly built social housing. Assessment and rating of new homes includes: Energy and carbon performance, environmental impact of materials, sustainable transport, recyclable waste, ecological impact, water efficiency and air quality.	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced Visible Leadership		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Renamed to BREEAM Residential, from Home Quality Mark. Pilot assessment achieved points 14, very good. Organising a workshop with the BREEAM assessor to go through the achieved score.	

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Actions by the council and partners to ENABLE and INFLUENCE the District in becoming net zero by 2030										
EB10	Investigate viable solutions for area wide green energy (i.e. rooftop solar PV, car park solar PV, heat networks and green hydrogen) schemes, potentially working with the community energy sector and other energy providers, and co-developing local area energy plans (LAEP) across Sussex and south east.	Core Aim 3	The district produces more green energy	TEB10	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Utilising existing internal and external resources.	2025	Ongoing location based project being investigated for viability- report due end of 2025 Part of solar bulk buying re-procurement by WSCC- due 2025- no auction in 2025 Potential project for village/parish energy plans to be investigated	
EB11	Develop council's enabling role for decarbonisation in the private sector, including exploration of homes retrofit financing.	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced	TEB3 TEB8	Mitigation	Cabinet member for climate, nature and food, Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28- £750,000 allocated to a viable scheme	Ongoing - set up loan scheme (if viable) by end of 2024	We are supporting the development of an East Sussex wide retrofit strategy, including researching financing options. Cabinet has approved procurement of a loan scheme provider with an initial investment of £500,000. Procurement will take place late 2025.	
EB12	Work with partners including CAB1066 and OVESCO Energy Champions to deliver and promote energy saving and efficiency initiatives. Support and facilitate access to the Warm Homes Check service East Sussex scheme especially in fuel poor and hard to reach communities. Support and promote retrofit schemes e.g. CommuniPower and government grants.	Core Aim 3	Residents, in particular those most vulnerable, can access advice, funding and practical sustainability measures	TEB9	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Community Wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	□ Ongoing and leading an East Sussex consortium for (Warm Homes Local Grants) WHLG grants. The consortium secure £3.9m from government to deliver a 3 years scheme beginning in 2025/26.	
EB13	Continue to deliver educational material to tenants on energy saving, water reduction, biodiversity and food growing.	Core Aim 3	Residents, in particular those most vulnerable, can access advice, funding and practical sustainability measures		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for tenants and those in housing need	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Resources remain available on the website active promotions in the Tenant's Open Voice newsletter and from some of the Tenant Resident Association and estate newsletters. Including Stay Warm and Well in December 2024 Tenants Open Voice, to Landport Residents' Association Winter 2024 Newsletter, promoting litter picks, wild life club, its community garden and advice on food recycling.	
EB14	Take the greenest approach to energy in our planning policy, including new local plan, for example, developing design codes for developers that could link to circular economy work (Towards a local plan special strategy: Policy D1*) and explore higher building standards e.g. insulation / energy use (Policy CC2*)	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced	TEB3	Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
EB15	Require developers to carry out a whole life cycle carbon assessment of new build developments (Policy D2*)	Core Aim 3	The borough's emissions from buildings and construction have reduced		Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning and infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. This highlighted the viability of the approach for smaller scale schemes. Detailed policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25 with the consultation highlighting that the approach would be more appropriate for large scale allocations where full costing can be applied. A Phase 2 consultation document is scheduled for autumn 2025 - which will include the draft allocation policies.	
EB16	Support climate hubs and amplify impact and activity of their member organisations across the district.	Core Aim 3	Residents, in particular those most vulnerable, can access advice, funding and practical sustainability measures The borough's emissions from buildings have reduced	TEB9	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Climate Hub will resource.	Ongoing	Routine sharing activity and events of climate hubs and related groups.	
EB17	Support the community energy and private sector to deliver a programme of renewable power generation schemes across the district.	Core Aim 3	Community Energy initiatives have been enabled	TEB10	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Ongoing. Technical support for OVESCO's solar farm project is ongoing	

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Sustainable Travel and Air Quality										
Actions to be completed by the council to make its operations and services sustainable and meet net zero by 2030										
ST1	Raise awareness and undertake a review of sustainable travel incentives for staff.	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 3	Increased access to more sustainable transport		Mitigation	Cabinet member for innovation, delivery and people.	Can be delivered using existing resources	end 2024	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
ST2	Decarbonise all small to medium sized fleet vehicles (non-waste and recycling fleet)	Core Aim 1	Achieve zero carbon at tailpipe fleet vehicles	TST6	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems and Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Fleet decisions to be costed at the appropriate time	2027	The Neighbourhood First fleet are being reviewed in June 2025 leading to a strategy by end 2025.	
ST3	Deliver on zero carbon RCV fleet	Core Aim 1	Achieve zero carbon at tailpipe waste fleet	TST1	Mitigation	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Fleet decisions to be costed at the appropriate time	2030	The council has taken delivery of six new fully electric street cleaning vehicles this year, 2025. Included in the new streets fleet is a zero-emissions EV street sweeper – capable of a 200 km range per charge and carrying 5,000 litres of waste – making its UK debut in Lewes district. This is in addition to Lewes District Council's fleet of all-electric vehicles to collect food waste from homes across the district.	
Actions taken by the council to ENABLE and INFLUENCE the District to become net zero carbon by 2030 and to address the ecological emergency										
ST4	Ensure that local planning policy and guidance includes requirements for alternatives to car travel, passive and active EVCPs and cycle parking on all new major developments (Local plan policy ICS?)	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
ST5	Complete Electric Vehicle Charge point installations & deliver a further programme of EVCPs in car parks. Progress opportunities for Rapid EV charge points at leisure facilities.	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved	TST5	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems & Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28 £100,000	2026	Newhaven hub option being explored. Additional charging at car parks and leisure sites have been quoted for but procurement is postponed to await ESCC procurement for LEVI funded chargepoints, to avoid expenditure if possible.	
ST6	Support ESCC to deliver on-street residential EV charge point infrastructure programme so that all residents are 'within a convenient distance' of a place to charge their car.	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet Members for Planning & Infrastructure and Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	LEVI funding allocated to ESCC	2030	ESCC procurement due to start April 2025- rapids to be considered in this.	
ST7	Deliver sustainable transport plans in new council housing developments in line with "New Homes Principles" on a scheme by scheme basis.	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved	TST3	Mitigation	Cabinet member for tenants and those in housing need	Can be delivered using existing resources	2024	Continue to consider on a case-by-case basis sustainable options siting schemes in appropriate locations where possible e.g. Stowe Place for bus services. The BREEM Residential review and accreditation process also includes the integration of sustainable transport for homes on a case-by-case.	
ST8	Enable the expansion of car clubs into coastal towns and enable car clubs to convert petrol vehicles to electric	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved	TST4	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28 £25,000 - this £75k with £2k for peacehaven	2025	This is being evaluated for viability Summer 2025.	
ST9	Enable integrated travel by assessing LDC estate for opportunities and by supporting E Cargo bike hire and delivery scheme.	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet member for climate, nature and food systems	Resources allocated in LDC Capital Programme 23/24 to 27/28 £10,000	2025	Completed	COMPLETED
ST10	Influence delivery of sustainable transport between art, cultural and natural assets across the district (e.g. Art Bus – Charleston in Lewes and Firle, Towner, etc). Work with Sussex Modern.	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Arts, Culture and Leisure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	The Local Visitor Economy Partnership board champion positive change for Sussex including sustainable transport, now includes representation from public transport providers and Gatwick Airport, public transport will be an agenda item moving forward.	
ST11	Update LDC Air Quality Action Plan and review annually via annual status report (published by Defra Oct-Nov)	Core Aim 3	Air pollution is reduced and public health improved	TST2	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	update by end of 2025, and then Ongoing	Completion date extended- Draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) went to consultation spring 2025, and the final AQAP is due for Cabinet November 2025; once approved by Cabinet and by Defra, will be adopted and published. The Lewes Town air quality management area will be extended and work on this will start once the AQAP has been approved.	
ST12	Work with ESCC and partners e.g. Sustrans to deliver sustainability/air quality events with community groups and schools e.g., School Streets and "Living Streets" to raise awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality and climate change	Core Aim 3	Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Current funding coming to end, seeking further funding opportunities for projects.	
ST13	Work with NHS and Public Health partners via Sussex-air to raise awareness and provide guidance on health impacts of poor air quality and mitigation measures e.g., wood burner clean air night https://sussex-air.net/	Core Aim 3	Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Ongoing	
ST14	Support ESCC to enable new cycling and walking initiatives as detailed in the Draft East Sussex Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)	Core Aim 3	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet Members for Planning & Infrastructure and Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Play a role in seeking funding to enable activities if suitable funding streams become available	Ongoing	Ongoing	
ST15	Develop a pathway to a low carbon taxi fleet in partnership with Sussex-air (to be reported via Air Quality Action Plan annual status report.)	Core Aim 3	Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems & Cabinet member for community wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	Ongoing	
ST16 (NEW)	Explore cycling and walking route options between Lewes and Uckfield working alongside Wealden DC	Core Aim 4	Increased access to sustainable transport. Air pollution is reduced and public health improved		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	£50,000 allocated	Long term project	Feasibility work completed- phased approach proposed in light of Local Government Re-organisation	

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Biodiversity										
Actions to be completed by the council to make its operations and services sustainable and meet net zero by 2030										
B1	Use our land to improve biodiversity and restore nature, for example by reviewing Grounds Maintenance Contract to better reflect current good practice around mowing, wildflower planting, with signage and council tree planting and after care programme, recognising heritage grassland. Implement resilience and adaptation measures in parks.	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network	TB3	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2024 and Ongoing	Site plans have been prepared for the new Grounds Maintenance contract to set aside new areas for wildflowers and natural habitat. Ongoing actions include Shingle planting at Marine Workshops providing a summer display for 2025, to inspire local gardeners. Building upon years of successful wildflower management, the council is trialling a diverse new mix of native British wildflowers in green spaces of varying sizes from large expanses in parks to smaller roadside areas. The 2025 initiative introduces a carefully selected blend of more than 25 annual and perennial native wildflower species. This long term commitment aims to establish richer, more resilient wildflower areas that will enhance their ecological value, particularly for pollinators such as bees and butterflies.	
B2	Monitor and report on the Biodiversity Duty (Environment Act) and the Council's Biodiversity Strategy, via the Climate and Nature Action Plan	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Ongoing work to record our actions for future reporting and staying up to date with new information from Government and others on requirements. Officers attended a Sussex Nature Partnership webinar on Biodiversity Duty (April 2025).	
B3	Continue to implement our pesticide policy which means no pesticide use on District Council land except for in exceptional circumstances. Lobby East Sussex County Council to do the same	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Pesticide free policy continues to be adhered to.	
Actions taken by the council to ENABLE and INFLUENCE the District to become net zero carbon by 2030 and to address the ecological emergency										
B4	Use our planning policy, and work with partners (East Sussex County Council & Nature Recovery Strategy) to achieve biodiversity wording that is fit for purpose including biodiversity net gain and our aspiration for 20% in order to arrest declines. (*Local plan policy IC9)	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
B5	Influence the development of the Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy so it captures our priorities	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Officers are members of the 'Supporting Authority Group' working in partnership with the Responsible Authority, ESCC, to ensure maps and information are accurate and up to date. Also to add projects for nature to the activity map on the Sussex Nature Recovery website https://www.sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk/	
B6	Report on Biodiversity Net Gain in all developments (aiming for 20%) over 30 years, other than those exempted by the environment	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network	TB1	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Developments will begin reporting when construction begins. The developments with conditions to report Biodiversity Net Gain have not yet begun construction on site. When they begin, reporting will be captured over the required 30 year in a new online monitoring platform. The new Local Plan is consulting on policy to consider the adoption of Biodiversity Net Gain greater than the statutory 10% (Policy NE3: Biodiversity and Nature Recovery which includes a recommendation for a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain for major developments). This will be subject to viability considerations prior to adoption of the Local Plan.	
B7	Delivering projects with partners, including town and parish councils, to ensure a district wide approach to the wildlife crisis; supporting natural habitat creation measures	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Resources TBC on a project by project basis	Ongoing	District wide strategy/scheme for wildflower and grassland meadow supporting management for pollinators and insects on 30 sites (ID verde – ongoing) Natural Flood management projects with OART and SWT supports natural habitat creation across River Ouse catchment area (ongoing) Lewes Winterbourne restoration project with OART to restore Chalk stream priority habitat (ongoing) Working with Seaford Town and Kingston Parish to achieve wildlife friendly grass cutting regime across coordinated open spaces.	
B8	Continue to provide project support for partnerships and community nature groups, including expertise, volunteer management and fund raising support	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Volunteer management of nature reserves Friends of Groups (FoGs) (ongoing) with 10 sessions lead onsite to provide expertise and specialist support (Wildlife surveying, Tree coppicing, Wildflower management, Invasive species control). Continued working with groups on habitat restoration. Nature community day events co-lead with community groups at Old Brickfield (Seaford), Castle Hill (Newhaven), and Landport (Lewes) Fund raising: Changing Chalk grant application for Castle Hill FoG (granted)	
B9	Continue LDC support to partners. Partnership work to OVCA, Changing Chalk, and the Biosphere	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Biosphere: Share expertise achieving LDC Pesticide free policy. Changing Chalk: Nature restoration work, community engagement and naturalist training offered at Castle Hill and Railway Land (ongoing). Newhaven Nature wonder walks implemented in 2025.	
B10	Support the UNESCO review of the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere (review period to 2025) and encourage an extension of the Biosphere boundary to bring in the whole of the district. The Living Coast	Core Aim 2	UNESCO Biosphere designation is retained and extended		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Summer 25	Lewes District Council has been a founding and strategic partner of The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere (https://thelivingcoast.org.uk/) since its inception back in 2014. Beyond its outstanding natural environment, notably chalk grassland and cliffs as well as the Ouse River, Lewes is renowned for its vibrant communities and initiatives on sustainability, such as the Cocksfoot Stream Restoration Project, the Railway Land Wildlife Trust and Ouse Valley Climate Action. It also features inspiring local businesses that incorporate sustainability at their heart. Lewes is key in helping the Biosphere deliver our strategic objectives for 2025-2034: 1 Restore & enhance our natural heritage to ensure sustainable living for all 2 Sustainability Education for all 3 Use our UNESCO designation as a vehicle to promote a sense of local pride fostering Sustainable Economic Development & Tourism 4 Ensuring stronger Funding, Governance & Communications to support the Biosphere's goals 2025 is a pivotal year as we are about to enter a new decade as a UNESCO designated Biosphere, and to expand the boundaries of the Biosphere's geography to encompass the whole of Lewes District Council. This will be the opportunity to strengthen our collective work addressing the challenges of climate change and nature degradation and increase the impact of our Partnership and the related potential opportunities for residents and businesses across the district. The official Biosphere status renewal update will be at the end of September 2025.	
B11	Work with partners to support the Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	tbc	Continued support to the partnership as it progresses.	
B12	Be at the heart of partnership working on climate and nature partnership projects, including via the Ouse Valley Climate Action, as reported in their annual report	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Externally funded	2025	Statement from OVCA: 'OVCA values the support of Lewes District Council and greatly appreciates the collaborative spirit shown by both officers and elected members in advancing shared goals around community driven environmental restoration and climate change action.'	
B13 (New)	Specify peat free plants to be provided by the new Grounds Maintenance Contract.	Core Aim 2	Restored, resilient and joined up nature network		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	New Grounds Maintenance Contract specification includes the requirement to supply peat free plants.	

Action reference (TBC)	ACTION	Action meets Which Core Aim?	Action Area Objective	Action Area Target (if relevant) TBC	Is the action an adaptation or mitigation measure or does it do both?	PORTFOLIO HOLDER	Are RESOURCES available?	DATE FOR COMPLETION	2024/2025 Update	RAG
Sustainable Food Systems										
Actions taken by the council to ENABLE and INFLUENCE the District to become net zero carbon by 2030 and to address the ecological emergency										
SF1	Explore innovative methods of supporting sustainable food production (e.g., sustainable fishing in Newhaven)	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Increased sustainable food production in the district.	TSF1 TCW3	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	*Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems *Cabinet member for finance, assets and community wealth.	Investigation can be delivered using existing resources.	2025	We continue to work with the Newhaven Fishing CIC Board to promote sustainable fish products and sustainable fishing techniques. Work is ongoing. Explore funding work around unlocking investment in landscape scale nature based solutions for the farming sector. Work scope to be agreed, LDC financial contribution has been agreed in principle. During 2024/25 we explore participating in the Sussex SIX Scheme, (encouraging retail outlets to provide more local produce.)	
SF2	Investigate the potential role the council in the creation of a Greater Brighton (or East Sussex) Food Hub	Core Aim 3	Improved food resilience.		Mitigation	*Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems *Cabinet member for finance, assets and community wealth.	Investigation can be delivered using existing resources.	2025	Watching brief, staff and councillors involved.	
SF3	Building food resilience ensuring our planning policy recognises the key role of local agriculture and horticulture and seeks to protect local food infrastructure. (Policy IC7) and by supporting or publicising land sharing opportunities for new horticulture entrants.	Core Aim 3	Improved food resilience.		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
SF4	Work in partnership to facilitate food growing initiatives on suitable council land, where appropriate (e.g., community growing spaces and orchards)	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Increased sustainable food production in the district.		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Financial resourcing needed if leases required.	Ongoing	LDC continues to facilitate & support community growing spaces and orchards on LDC land where suitable	
SF5	Support the development a food and health strategy for the new Phoenix neighbourhood in Lewes. https://humannature-places.com/	Core Aim 3	Strategic food systems approach achieved across the district		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Human Nature are resourcing this project	Ongoing	Work is ongoing- discussions are planned and ongoing	
SF6	Work with Lewes District Food Partnership to implement strategic aims of championing a good food culture, fostering young peoples connections with food and develop a dignified approach to community food support.	Core Aim 3	Strategic food systems approach achieved across the district	TSF2	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Resourced by LDFF	Ongoing	The Lewes District Food Partnership (LDFF) Strategy 2025-2028 has been adopted by LDC as a signatory, along with ongoing membership of the LDFF Steering Group.	
SF7 (NEW)	Investigate potential to update New Homes Principles with food centered requirements and if we can, then can we extend to existing home renovations.	Core Aim 3	Strategic food systems approach achieved across the district		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems		Mar-26	New action- work to begin	
SF8 (NEW)	Investigate potential for local food metrics similar to work conducted through the 'Broken Plate' report	Core Aim 3	Strategic food systems approach achieved across the district		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems		Mar-26	New action- work to begin	
SF9 (New)	Review our local planning policy to ensure it supports food infrastructure and review whether Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used.	Core Aim 3	Strategic food systems approach achieved across the district		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems		2026	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used for food infrastructure. These have to be assessed within normal approval processes and be within the district eligible area. The CIL includes community funding pots and a community orchard has been funded. The CIL team can discuss a proposal and how to apply. Supported by the developing Local Plan policies such as Policy HW6 Healthy Local Food. Review of full draft policies are ongoing over the summer/autumn of 2025 with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
SF10 (New)	Food in local plan? Can we input into new national policy? Have we linked our strategic food policies and how we link into national policies.	Core Aim 3	Strategic food systems approach achieved across the district		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems		2026	The developing Local Plan includes as draft policies, for example under Health and Wellbeing Policy HW6 Healthy Local Food covering elements such as healthy and community food growing. These Policy directors were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025. In addition, the BREAM Residential assessment and accreditation, being piloted by Lewes District Council, links to Food waste with allocation of BREAM points for food waste management. e.g. must provide internal waste storage 10t volume and composting facilities aimed at informing local food waste collection services. This is enable us to influence at the national level.	

Action reference (TBC)	ACTION	Action meets which Core Aim?	Action Area Objective	Action Area Target (if relevant) TBC	Is the action an adaptation or mitigation measure or does it do both?	PORTFOLIO HOLDER	Are RESOURCES available?	DATE FOR COMPLETION	2024/2025 Update	RAG
Reducing waste and litter										
Actions to be completed by the council to make its operations and services sustainable and meet net zero by 2030										
WR1	Ensure sustainability at events which take place on council land, including eliminating single use plastics, encouraging sustainable transport & food provision and exploring use of compost toilets	Core Aim 1 Core Aim 3	Reduced waste, increased recycling.		Mitigation	Cabinet member for Arts, Culture and Leisure & Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Investigation can be delivered using internal resources	2025	We have supported the introduction of reusable pint cups and 'bring your own' cups at Lewes Bonfire. The Council advises event organisers to avoid SUPs and generators, and recommending sustainable transport and ethical suppliers.	
WR2	Determine a way to measure waste produced on council sites and add this to scope 3 reporting, then determine ways to reduce it.	Core Aim 1	Reduced waste, increased recycling.	TRW1	Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	Approximation is now possible (measured in litres) at council offices. Monitored through the relevant performance measure and reported annually. Construction waste can be reported for Modular Housing contract and working to increase reporting on a project by project basis.	
Actions by the council to ENABLE & INFLUENCE the District to become net zero carbon by 2030										
WR3	Review waste & recycling service provision to align them with the requirements of increasing recycling and decreasing residual waste.	Core Aim 3	Reduced waste, increased recycling	TRW2	Mitigation	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	2028	Plans through 2025 to introduce a public engagement exercise and operational adaptations to waste collections to improve the district's recycling rate and encourage the uptake of the food waste collection service.	
WR4	Continue reduce reuse recycle (RRR) bulletins, and wider communications plan focusing on waste reduction e.g. A-Z of recycling, reducing food waste and promoting the use of food waste & recycling collection services.	Core Aim 3	Reduced waste, increased recycling Improved public realm	TRW2	Mitigation	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	The RRR bulletin continues to be circulated to 20,000 email address across the Lewes District. Recent comms and engagement -supporting national campaigns such as Food Waste Reduction Week, Recycle Your Electricals, and promoting uptake of food waste collections.	
WR5	Continue to support, promote and encourage the use of local reuse schemes and repair schemes e.g. Repair Cafes & Library of Things and community composting, which divert and reduce waste, working closely with local groups and organisations.	Core Aim 3	Encourage a local circular economy.		Mitigation	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	The council has played a key role in the launch and ongoing promotion of Ringmer Repair Café through its various communications channels. Environment First regularly hosts recycling workshops at the SEA Hub Seaford, which has provided an opportunity to collaborate with many of the ECO groups that exhibit there.	
WR6	To explore the licencing and planning system to encourage litter from takeaways and fast food outlets to be minimal.	Core Aim 3	Reduced waste, increased recycling Improved public realm		Mitigation	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	A new pavement licence policy has been developed for approval by LDC licensing committee in June 2025 – it specifically covers waste and keeping the area outside a premises clean and tidy as a condition with a pavement licence. Committee agreed to a 6 week engagement period, and the policy is anticipated to be adopted in autumn 2025. In the development of the new Local Plan policies: anticipating to include as one of the actions in Policy HW2 Minimising Pollution which includes control of litter from takeaways.	
WR7	Create opportunities to reduce littering and fly tipping and improve the public realm in collaboration with local and national partners, supporting their campaigns e.g. on disposable vapes, and through our own 'Educate Remind Enforce' campaign.	Core Aim 3	Reduced waste, increased recycling. Improved public realm		Mitigation	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Promotion of litter pick activity carried by and in partnership with the council. Using positive images of operatives to promote the day-to-day activity of the street team e.g. emptying bins on Seaford bay twice a day, reporting on deep clean days. These prove popular with residents and receive high levels of engagement.	

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Water, rivers and seas										
Actions by the council to ENABLE and INFLUENCE the District to become net zero carbon and climate resilient by 2030										
WRS1	Develop a new high profile river/stream and nature restoration project, similar in scope to the Cockshut Chalk Stream Restoration Project	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Mitigate and manage the risks of flooding. Seeking to use natural flood methods which often support biodiversity and increase wellbeing.	TB2 TWR51 TWR52	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Budget to be determined	2025	Ongoing feasibility and modelling work on Cockshut downstream and Landport Brooks.	
WRS2	Deliver annual programme of repairs for cliff to coastal defence assets. Commission studies where necessary to monitor and support the management of the coast in the longer term. To work with communities and relevant organisations and professionals to understand and manage the risks posed by coastal erosion and ensure adequate adaptation measures in response to climate change.	Core Aim 3	The coastline has appropriately managed defences and is adapted to climate change.	TWR53 TWR54	Adaptation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems & Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure	Will need continued resources as specified in the capital programme and other forms of funding as when appropriate.	2055	On going repairs for cliff to coastal defence assets undertake including extensive repointing of sea wall and splash deck (promenade) at Peaschaven. Actively engaged in refresh of the Shoreline Management Plans producing new National Coastal Erosion Maps to assist risk assessment and investment plans.	
WRS3	Partnership working on natural flood management for example Sussex Wildlife Trust on the Wilder Ouse programme and Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) e.g. Nevill project - smaller projects to follow in partnership with Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust.	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Mitigate and manage the risks of flooding. Seeking to use natural flood methods which often support biodiversity and increase wellbeing.	TB2 TWR51 TWR52	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	The LDC maintains a programme of projects with its partners Ouse and Adur River Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust. The work is within the Ouse catchment and the eastern tributaries of the Eastern Adur. LDC officers have worked with Ouse and Adur River Trust on the Winterbourne, Cockshut and Landport Brooks. In Newhaven, LDC has worked with partners on the issues of ground water flooding in and around Denton, Newhaven and using contractors cleared critical water courses in Kingston and Newhaven to reduce risk of flooding by improving the conveyance of water. The Sussex Trust delivered a package of actions from events, school engagement, fixing of leaking dams and pond restoration, creating an immediate additional Water storage from Natural Flood Management measures (not repair rainstorms) of a minimum 210,000litres. Ouse and Adur River Trust work in or on the edge of the urban environment. One area of focus has been and continues to be Newhaven. Covering Natural Flood Management in the Moeching valley sub-catchment. Other areas include Nevill Estate Lewes- working with residents developing and building Rain Gardens – part of Storing the Storm which has included working with various Lewes based Groups Nevill residents – 'Take part in the Storing the Storm Project – The Friends of Lewes'. Long term: Ouse and Adur River Trust are working with landowners along the Beveren and Longford Streams. In 2025 through to 2027 a series of interventions are planned to deliver projects along these town stream.	
WRS4	Hold water companies to account for example through active membership of the LGA coastal special interest group, via the Southern Water region Stakeholder Group Meeting the council's Southern Water Panel.	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Improved water quality. Public health is improved.		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Hosted meeting in October 2024 with South East Water and Southern Water, involving regulators, local authorities and environmental organisations, with everyone signing up to be part of future conversations to identify the best way to solve this challenging issue. The November 2024 Report from the Lewes District Council's Southern Water Panel, sets out a blueprint for a cleaner, greener water future with a series of recommendations to improve water quality in the district and across the country. The report was produced from the culmination of a comprehensive review of the water industry, which included meetings with a wide range of stakeholders including Southern Water, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust, the National Farmers' Union, Environmental Law Foundation and local campaign groups. Action to arrange a Ministerial meeting at their earliest convenience to discuss topics such as this.	
WRS5	Explore 'rights of rivers' with Love Our Ouse and the Ouse & Adur Catchment Partnership. Explore signing up as a Weald to Waves partner	Core Aim 2 Core Aim 3	Improved water quality		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	2025	The principles of a Rights of River Charter that identifies fundamental rights for the River Ouse is being championed by Lewes District Council. The decision by the Cabinet member for climate, nature and food systems to support the principles within the Rights of Rivers Charter, co-developed with Love Our Ouse and partners, was published in February 2025. Leading to national interest and media coverage of the Council championing 'pioneering Rights of River Charter to protect 'landmark waterway' and 'inspire the importance of the River Ouse for generations to come'. A webinar is due on the 7th November 2025.	
WRS6	Ensure that planning policies and guidance reflect our strategic goals for water including avoiding sewage pollution due to new development (*policy W2) and develop guidance to meet water consumption for new builds of no more than 90 litres per day (*policy W3)	Core Aim 3	Preservation of water resources Improved water quality		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
WRS7	Ensure planning policy reflects the need to avoid inappropriate development on flood plain (*policy W1)	Core Aim 3	Mitigate and manage the risks of flooding.		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet Member for Planning & Infrastructure	Can be delivered using existing resources	2026	Policy directions were consulted on during autumn 23/24. Full draft policies were consulted on during winter 2024/25. Review of the policies is ongoing over the summer/autumn with publication of a Phase 2 consultation document scheduled for autumn 2025.	
Community wealth and wellbeing										
Actions by the council to ENABLE & INFLUENCE the District to enable a green recovery and become net zero carbon by 2030										
CW1	Implement the 'LDC Community Wealth Building Strategy' to facilitate progressive procurement of goods and services, fair employment and just labour markets, socially productive use of land and assets, making financial power work for local places and plural ownership of the economy	Core Aim 3	A Just Transition Community Groups are supported as partners to achieve this strategy	TCW1	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Sustainable procurement policy has been produced and a Procurement Strategy approved at July 2025 Cabinet outlines how procurement aligns with our climate and nature objectives and develops Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be reported at the Procurement Oversight Board due to start in Autumn 2025.	
CW2	Play a leadership role in developing the green skills of the future, for example...enabling partners e.g. East Sussex College Group, to deliver blue/green skills training	Core Aim 3	Local skilled workforce to fulfil roles within the green and nature economy		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth & Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Positively East Sussex College providing blue/green courses at Marine workshops. The Council to continue reaching out to the Chamber to broaden our green skills focus.	
CW3	Explore the development of a Blue/Green Hub at Marine Workshops and determine next steps	Core Aim 3	A Just Transition Locally owned and socially minded enterprises have been enabled Community Groups are supported as partners to achieve this strategy		Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth & Cabinet member for Climate, nature, and food systems	Can be delivered using existing resources	Early 2025	Blue/Green Hub established and increased use of space enabling collaboration between council members, officers and local environmental groups. Marine Workshops occupancy progressing well, exhibition space on top floor and bottom hallway, local café set up, local businesses and East Sussex College offering environmental and marine biology courses.	
CW4	Explore the use of finances for good.	Core Aim 3	A Just Transition	TEB8	Both- Adaptation & Mitigation	Cabinet member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth	Can be delivered using existing resources	Ongoing	Providing Loan for Wave Community Bank and cabinet have approved home retrofitting loans scheme to enable private households to improve energy efficiency.	