



Worcestershire County Council Sustainability and Efficiency Plan

2026 - 2028

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Foreword

Worcestershire County Council takes the matter of environmental enhancement and protection seriously. The Council's Corporate Sustainability and Efficiency Plan focuses on how we aim to ensure that we can make environmental improvements, improve our own energy resilience, reduce emissions from our own operations and activities, enhance the local environment for ecological gain, and adapt to future climate changes.

We will continue to support actions that aim to reduce carbon emissions where there is a business case to do so, both from the Council's own operations and activities and by encouraging businesses and communities to do the same. The co-benefits of climate action cannot be underestimated – action we take to reduce our impacts will have direct outcomes such as cost savings, potential income generation, and improved local environmental quality, leading to far-reaching benefits for the Council and for Worcestershire more widely.

The governance framework for the WCC Corporate Sustainability and Efficiency Plan begins with oversight from the Council's Sustainability Board, ensuring alignment with environmental policy and priorities. Ownership and strategic direction of the Plan sits with Cabinet, with opportunity for wider input from full Council and the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The appended Action Plan provides details of the activities required in order to deliver the objectives of the WCC Corporate Sustainability and Efficiency Plan to the end of 2028, and we will strive to meet these to improve the local environment, reduce the Council's energy costs and provide a sustainable, greener and fairer future for all.



Councillor Ian Cresswell

*Cabinet Member for Environment
and Communities*



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

All member states of the United Nations have adopted the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They set out 17 Global Goals to achieve by 2030 – a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.



The SDGs are all supportive of each other with the aim of delivering global prosperity whilst also protecting the planet. This plan takes note of these UN SDGs when considering action at a local level within Worcestershire.

It is widely acknowledged that different members of the community are disproportionately affected by environmental and climatic impacts, and the actions within the Sustainability and Efficiency Plan seek to improve outcomes for those with protected characteristics, and other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.



Governance

The Sustainability and Efficiency Plan (SEP) is overseen by the Council's Sustainability Board, which acts as the main programme board for sustainability, energy efficiency and biodiversity action across the organisation. The Board meets quarterly to review progress of actions, with updates provided by officers of the Council where appropriate. The Board has senior level representation from each directorate, including key functions such as: Waste Management, Property Management, Fleet, Procurement, Planning, Finance, Communities and Communications. Members of the Board provide a strategic level review role to ensure the Sustainability objectives of the Council are realised.

A report on the progress of the SEP will be provided to full Council as part of the Cabinet Member for the Environment's annual report.

A live action log is maintained by the Sustainability Team detailing progress on short/medium-term actions from the SEP; new actions will also be added to the log as time progresses. The action log is reviewed by the Board at their regular meetings.

The Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel also examines the Council's sustainability plans, and the Council's Internal Audit is also part of the programme of governance of the SEP.

An Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed for the SEP, as with all new Council projects, programmes and plans, to assess the potential impacts of the Plan in respect of data protection, equality, public health and environmental sustainability.



Budget and Resources

The Council's budget is under significant pressure from statutory spending demands and cost increases.

The Council recognises that financial investment will be required for delivery of the actions within the SEP and will invest in projects and programmes where there is a valid and funded financial business case to do so which demonstrates value for money and where possible will be based on an Invest to Save model. Any investment will only be implemented following approval by Cabinet (and full Council should capital funding be required).

Alongside existing Council service budgets, all possible funding mechanisms will be explored to enable delivery of the SEP, taking advantage of any external grant funding from central government programmes and other funding sources, through to consideration of community municipal investment opportunities and green finance. The Council will work with partners to develop funding applications for joint projects, where appropriate.

The Council operates an Energy Efficiency Spend to Save Fund to support investment in capital projects which lead to energy and fuel reductions and future savings on Council expenditure. All projects are assessed to ensure they pay back within reasonable parameters and make financial business sense. These are considered by the Council's Capital Board prior to approval by Full Council for use of capital resources.



Sustainable Council

WCC has a responsibility to reduce impacts on the environment from its own operations and activities. Working together, all WCC Directorates have a part to play in ensuring the environmental sustainability of the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA)

It is important to identify at the early stages of project¹ development whether Council proposals may result in any potential impacts in terms of environmental sustainability, data protection, equality and public health. The Council's IIA process helps to identify environmental sustainability impacts in the following areas:

- * greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- * use of natural resources
- * transport
- * waste
- * wildlife and biodiversity
- * pollution to land/air/water
- * resilience to climate risks
- * historic environment
- * procurement

The IIA informs Council decisions on projects and it is a requirement to complete the process for all Council projects. The assessment is appended to Council and committee reports and taken into account in project and procurement approval processes.

Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

We are witnessing the direct impacts of climate change now, and we acknowledge the need to take action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Council has a long-documented history in preparing and implementing successful carbon and energy management plans. The Council's net GHG emissions have reduced by 41%² since 2009/10.

WCC acknowledges the UK Government's Climate Change Act target and the legally binding target on the UK to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050. WCC will continue to reduce the Council's own corporate emissions where there is a financially-sound business case to do so and consequently will play our part in reducing county-wide emissions.

The Council's emissions reduction efforts will be focussed across the Council's estate (property and land); streetlighting and traffic signals; fleet vehicles, staff travel and supply chain:

¹ The word 'project' refers to an activity, a programme, or a change to existing services, policies, procedures, strategies, plans etc.

² [WCC GHG data 2024/25](#)

* The Council's Estate – Property and Land

5% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from electricity and gas consumption in Council buildings, including offices, libraries, depots, care homes and Country Park visitor centres. Significant progress has been made with a reduction in absolute GHG emissions of 78% since 2009/10 from consumption of gas, electricity and residual fuels (such as oil and LPG), but there is more WCC can do to reduce energy expenditure and associated emissions.

WCC's property management decisions have a significant impact on running costs and carbon emissions. Energy prices have significantly increased over the last few years. Heating and powering the WCC buildings which the Council are directly responsible for (excluding schools³) cost £1.83 million in 2024/25. Further action is needed to reduce the burden of increasing energy prices and the risk this poses to Council budgets.

WCC has:

- invested in the energy efficiency of its sites through the Spend to Save Fund since 2010, investing a total of £2.8million over 15 years in energy efficiency measures, saving approximately £435,000 per year⁴
- installed just under 460 kWp of solar power on the corporate estate, which generated 300,000 kW of electricity last year
- reviewed and benchmarked Council properties for efficiency project opportunities

WCC will:

- continue to identify future opportunities to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures through the Property Capital Maintenance and Energy Efficiency Spend to Save programmes, with opportunities identified through surveys and benchmarking, focussing on sites which have a long-term future
- review opportunities to introduce large-scale renewable energy on our land where there is a business case to investigate this
- continue implementation of the corporate Sustainable Design and Estate Principles Guide
- review opportunities to purchase renewable energy over the lifetime of the SEP
- adopt a Heating and Cooling Policy for WCC properties
- review opportunities when purchasing white goods to ensure they are the most energy efficient model, ensuring lower running costs (supported through the Spend to Save Fund)
- review opportunities for the introduction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at Council sites to support WCC Fleet, staff and visitors to transition to low-and no-emission vehicles

³ Schools are not within the scope of the SEP due to devolved budgets, and WCC has limited access to schools' energy data unless they have a Service Level Agreement in place

⁴ This includes some projects at school sites as Spend to Save was offered to schools between 2010 and 2016

* **Street Lighting and Traffic Signals**

5% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from electricity used to power the Council's 80,300 illuminated assets. This includes streetlights, illuminated signs, bollards and traffic signals. WCC currently purchase 100% renewable electricity (REGO accredited) for streetlights and all Scope 2 emissions arising from this electricity use are offset via this measure. Powering Worcestershire's streetlights and traffic signals cost just over £2.5 million in 2024/25.

WCC has:

- reduced electricity consumption and net carbon emissions from street lighting by 98% since 2009/10, despite an increase in the number of streetlights and lit assets due to new residential developments in the county
- replaced 99% of streetlights with energy efficient LEDs which significantly reduces energy consumption and maintenance costs
- replaced 96% of all traffic signals with LEDs, and all new traffic signals are now extra low voltage and LEDs which use 79% less energy
- de-illuminated traffic signs where regulations allow
- procured 100% renewable (REGO accredited) electricity for all streetlights and illuminated assets to 2028

WCC will:

- 'light on demand' where feasible to do so
- continue to review the efficiency of older LED lights which may need replacement with more efficient models
- update the older style conventional lighting in WCC operated subways to LED
- review further opportunities to invest in new technology. e.g., smart lighting controls and management systems

* **WCC Fleet Vehicles**

2% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from WCC's 195 owned or hired fleet vehicles, and fleet management and transport decisions have a significant impact on the Council's emissions. Fuelling fleet and other Council-owned vehicles with petrol and diesel cost just over £420,000 in 2024/25.

The Council has seen significant demand for fleet vehicle usage and rising fuel costs. Particulate emissions and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) from the Council's vehicles are also contributing to poor air quality. There are several air quality management areas in Worcestershire, including the whole of Worcester City. Current UK legislation requires all new cars and vans to be 100% zero emission at the tailpipe by 2035.

Action taken now to reduce fuel consumption will help to future-proof fleet service delivery, reduce future running costs, and reduce the environmental impact of the Council's fleet.

WCC has:

- reduced carbon emissions from WCC fleet transport by 34% since 2009/10 due to a reduction in the number of fleet vehicles, and investment in more fuel-efficient models (including 6 new gritters)
- introduced energy efficient driving techniques training
- developed a ULEV-first (ultra-low emission vehicle) procurement policy and fleet investment decision process, developed and implemented through the Fleet Procurement Panel

WCC will:

- identify ULEV options to replace vehicles when funding is made available to so, with purchase of electric vehicles being the first consideration for replacement vehicles with the business cases being assessed on a case-by-case basis. Where replacement with a ULEV is not viable, WCC to replace with a minimum EURO 6 standard vehicle
- review opportunities to invest in ULEV vehicle options supported through the corporate Energy Efficiency Spend to Save Fund
- introduce a new electric mobile library vehicle in 2026 which will replace the current diesel fuelled mobile library, utilising grant funding from the Arts Council England (see case study on the next page)
- keep under review the use of alternative lower-emission fuels, such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), assessed on a case-by-case basis



Case Study – Electric Mobile Library

Overview

Worcestershire County Council's Library Service is introducing a new fully electric mobile library and outreach vehicle in 2026, replacing one of the existing diesel-fuelled mobile library vans.

Funding

The project is being funded with over £300,000 secured from the Libraries Improvement Fund (LIF), administered by Arts Council England.

Location / Housing

When off the road, the new EV mobile library will be located at Malvern, Rubery and Evesham Libraries, where EV charging points will be installed.

Vehicle Range & Operational Suitability

The vehicle has an approximate real-world range of 110 miles. Our longest scheduled daily route is 77 miles, which ensures reliable operation even under reduced winter-range conditions.

Service & Community Benefits

The EV mobile library will:

- Improve the sustainability and reliability of the mobile library service with less maintenance expected.
- Reduce operational carbon emissions and fuel costs.
- Enable the development of a new library community outreach programme with a focus on improving children's literacy, supporting digital access and delivering health and wellbeing benefits
- Continue to provide an important social lifeline in rural communities, helping to reduce loneliness and improve access to services.



* Staff Business Travel

During 2024/25, WCC staff travelled nearly 2.8 million miles for work purposes in their own vehicles (also referred to as grey fleet). This represents 2% of the Council's overall emissions. Commuting is not included within these figures, as it is difficult to accurately calculate this, however this data would be captured in the UK Government national emissions dataset.

WCC has:

- reduced emissions from grey fleet by 75% since 2009/10, predominantly through a reduction in the number of WCC staff claiming mileage, but also through adopting a hybrid working model and increasing online meetings where appropriate
- operated the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme for a number of years, supporting staff to engage in active travel to and for work through the purchase of bicycles. Employees save 26-40% on the price and spread the cost, interest free, by enabling them to pay monthly through a salary sacrifice. WCC have increased the limit to £3,000 to enable employees to have a wider choice, including electric bikes.
- launched a salary sacrifice Green Car Scheme to support staff to transition to low and zero emission vehicles
- updated the existing Travel and Subsistence Policy to include a sustainable travel hierarchy for work related travel

WCC will:

- review electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure requirements in WCC car parks to support staff to transition to electric vehicles

* Staff and Member Awareness

The decisions that WCC staff and councillors make, from day-to-day activities to service planning, procurement and project development, have a significant impact on the Council's environmental impacts.

WCC has:

- provided staff training around environmental sustainability over a number of years, including face to face training and e-learning modules
- introduced the Integrated Impact Assessment (previously the Joint Impact Assessment) tool that requires review of environmental impacts and is required for all new Council projects

WCC will:

- review options for refreshing and re-launching sustainability training for WCC staff, Senior Management, and Councillors



* Procurement and Supply Chain

The Council's procurement and investment decisions have the potential to make a significant impact on WCC's attributed emissions and have a far wider reach into the community. 14% of the Council's accounted absolute carbon emissions are from three major contracts: highways maintenance, waste management (excluding emissions from waste disposal processes), and contracted transport fleet.

There are significant supply chain emissions (also referred to as Scope 3 GHG emissions) which are not currently captured, such as emissions from social care contracts, and there will be many more. Over the lifetime of the Sustainability and Efficiency Plan, the Council is looking to improve its data collection and reporting on supply chain emissions.

WCC has:

- reduced its accounted Scope 3 emissions from the Council's highways maintenance, waste management and fleet contracts collectively by 33% since 2009/10
- engaged with the Local Government Association (LGA) on a Sustainable Procurement Learning Set, sharing best practice and knowledge around supply chain emissions with other local authorities

WCC will:

- review existing and future contracting requirements and work with suppliers to set environmental contract clauses, linking with social value clauses in contracts and reviewing opportunities to include stipulations on suppliers around reducing emissions and environmental impacts, in particular where this will reduce cost of service delivery
- maximise procurement spend with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) through the new National Procurement Policy Statement

Adaptation to Climate Change

The changing climate is already having a significant impact on Worcestershire through an increase in the incidence of extreme weather events. The severity, depth and regularity of flooding from surface water and rivers due to increasing intensity of rainfall is now being witnessed as a regular occurrence. Heat waves incidences, and prolonged periods of drought in the summer months are also more regular.

Extreme weather and human activities are putting pressure on our natural resources, wildlife and biodiversity, and those who live and work in Worcestershire. The most vulnerable members of the community, such as the very young and the elderly, are particularly exposed to climate risks.

Extreme weather also impacts significantly on Council service delivery, road maintenance (e.g. melting tarmac and storm damage), and on the wider environment, with more stress on water supply, flora and fauna survival and agriculture. It is therefore extremely important that the Council addresses the risk that climate change poses to Council assets, services and the wider county, to avoid incurring higher costs, disruption to communities, damage to infrastructure and higher excess summer and winter deaths.

UK Government has established the [National Climate Change Adaptation Programme](#).

The corresponding UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identifies six priority risk areas: flooding, high temperatures, water supply shortages, natural capital, food production, and pest and disease.

The Government have identified Local Authorities as having an important role in raising awareness and involving local communities by sharing information to explain local climate changes, how they can be managed and what households and businesses can do to help.

In order to prepare the county for the impacts of climate change, the Council is already:

- operating as the Lead Local Flood Authority with a duty to manage flood risk from surface water, groundwater and other watercourses across the county
- coordinating Worcestershire's Local Nature Partnership (LNP), which addresses natural capital, water quality and climate change
- working in partnership with neighbouring local authorities, the Severn Rivers Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and private landowners on a natural flood management programme - this is a proactive approach to flood risk that looks at the whole watershed to see if it is possible to slow down the water as it moves through the catchment.

Using tools that attenuate the water, features like ponds, scrapes, swales, leaky dams, aeration of soils, it aims to hold water in the landscape for longer and so reduce

the intensity of flooding in the towns and villages lower down the catchment.

As well as hopefully reducing flood peaks, a range of wetland habitats are created as a byproduct so aiding biodiversity recovery and creating a more diverse and interesting landscape

- actively delivering the [Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) to ensure protection and enhancement of environmental quality throughout the county
- ensuring new buildings are designed to cope with future climatic change, such as The Hive, Worcester, which was designed to cope with intense rainfall and hotter summers

WCC will:

- continue to assess climate risk and adaptation measures through the Council's corporate Integrated Impact Assessment ([see Page 6](#)) for all new Council projects
- continue to deliver the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which details all flood alleviation work and future plans in this area
- continue implementation of the natural flood management programme - The project is externally funded by the Environment Agency, with the current round of funding running to Easter 2027, after which it hoped several more years of funding will be forthcoming from UK Government
- continue to work with partners on the risks posed by hot weather





Sustainable Community

As a local leader, WCC has a responsibility to support the local community to reduce their environmental impacts. WCC offer support and guidance to help communities to reach their own sustainability goals, reducing their environmental impacts, and improving energy and fuel efficiency.

Household Waste Disposal

WCC's role as Waste Disposal Authority means the Council have control over how household waste is disposed of through the Waste Management Service contract. 73% of the Council's absolute carbon emissions are from household waste disposal, which is by far the largest proportion of WCC's emissions and is one of the most difficult areas to reduce. Currently, 43.4% of the County's household waste is recycled or composted and most of the remaining waste is disposed of at EnviRecover, the Council's Energy from Waste (EfW) plant, with only a small fraction of waste being landfilled.

The amount of waste produced by Worcestershire's households is increasing as the number of homes and population of the County grows, and there is significant new development planned in the county over the coming years. This will place significant pressures on the waste disposal budget and prove difficult to reduce emissions from disposal processes. Managing household waste costs the Council approximately £40 million every year.

Action taken now to prevent household waste generation will reduce this cost as well as reducing associated emissions. Close working with the Council's residents, waste management contractor and constituent Waste Collection Authorities is fundamental to keep waste disposal costs down and reduce the environmental impact.

The UK Government's National Resources and Waste Strategy and the Environment Act 2021 have introduced significant changes to the way the Council will be required to manage household waste in the future. These measures include extended producer responsibility for packaging, a deposit return scheme, food waste collections and consistency in household and business recycling, which all aim to bring environmental benefits.

Pre-empting the expected increase in food waste collected in the county, WCC has successfully bid for a feasibility study, funded by the Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH), to be undertaken to look at the opportunities for an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility in the county. WCC wish to understand the financial and energy benefits of retaining household food waste from forthcoming collections within the county, to act as a renewable energy source to contribute towards the energy needs of Worcestershire communities and businesses. The outcomes of the report will be key in feeding into procuring a new waste disposal contract for the county.

WCC has:

- reduced emissions from household waste disposal by 20% since 2009/10, predominantly due to a significant reduction in waste sent to landfill following the opening of EnviRecover EfW plant
- completed a funded feasibility study into the possible application of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) at EnviRecover

WCC will:

- ensure that the procurement of the Council's new waste contract reviews all opportunities for efficiencies and reduces the environmental impacts of future waste disposal
- keep under review the viability of carbon reducing technologies (including CCS) for EfW
- continue to work in partnership with the districts to implement changes to household waste collection, as outlined in Environment Act 2021 (simpler recycling and food waste collections)
- complete a feasibility study considering the opportunities for anaerobic digestion facilities in the county
- continue to promote waste prevention initiatives to households

Case Study – Reusable Nappies

Disposable nappies, while a necessity for parents, are one of the most environmentally unfriendly items available due to all the plastics used in their production.

Worcestershire County Council promotes the use of reusable nappies to parents and works in partnership with The Nappy Lady, the largest retailer of reusable nappies in the UK. Parents are offered a cashback payment towards purchase of nappies on the Nappy Lady website and since starting to work together in 2024, 105 parents have made the swap to reusable nappies, diverting around 84 tonnes of nappies out of the waste stream.

Worcestershire County Council also works alongside Worcestershire Nappy Library, who lend out starter packs so that parents can try before they buy and make sure they buy the right nappies for their lifestyle and child.

For information on reusable nappies visit letswasteless.com/nappies.

Contracted Fleet Vehicles

WCC operates many fleet contracts for Council service provision, particularly for home-to-school transport, adult social care, Worcestershire on Demand and the subsidised bus network in the County. Contracted fleet contributes 4% of the Council's accounted carbon emissions. This equates to a significant number of contracted fleet vehicles on the county's roads, which directly impact on local environmental quality, particularly local air and health quality.

WCC has:

- begun rolling out the Worcestershire on Demand (WoD) bus service offering an alternative transport option to fixed route public transport services. It helps people make essential local journeys within a defined area and offers residents and visitors transport within a zoned area and to specific places of interest outside of the zone. WoD utilises intelligent planning route optimisation software, shifting away from timetabled services, providing vehicles only when and where necessary, making efficiency savings
- installed a number of sustainable bus shelters, utilising renewable energy sources and living rooftops to encourage biodiversity

WCC will:

- continue implementing WoD bus services, providing vehicles only when and where necessary, making efficiency savings and promoting health and air quality benefits
- install sustainable bus shelters as default option
- implement the Worcestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to encourage uptake of bus services as opposed to individuals travelling in private vehicles

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy

WCC has an important role to play, particularly around providing electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is accessible and equitable. The Council is well placed to access funding, identify opportunities, work in partnership and attract private investment for the required infrastructure, and assist with wider enablement. Specific challenges that WCC can be instrumental in helping to address are around ensuring equitable opportunity in a largely rural county, financing less commercially attractive chargepoints and addressing constrained electrical capacity areas.

WCC has:

- committed to supporting the transition to electric vehicles and coordinating the development of accessible chargepoints across the county. Whilst most drivers of electric vehicles will be able to satisfy their charging needs by using their own chargepoint at home, provision of public charging is going to be essential to support long distance journeys for those without access to off-street parking and destination charging.
- developed an EVCI strategy in order to guide the development of publicly accessible charging, particularly where WCC are actively involved in its deployment. The strategy also sets out expectations of other operators choosing to install within the county. This first phase of the EVCI strategy is focussed on delivering the Government-funded Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. Key themes in delivering EVCI is to deliver charging infrastructure that will bring not only environmental benefits but that will also be reliable, accessible, equitable and integrated into other transport and travel infrastructure.
- developed [**guidance on the Use of Cable Protectors for Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Charging**](#) to aid residents without access to off-street parking to charge an EV using their own home electric supply. It is intended to assist residents/users to make informed decisions about how they can charge a vehicle whilst reducing the risk of obstruction or injury to users of the highway

WCC will:

- implement the EVCI Strategy and measure progress against the KPIs within the strategy

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Scheme

Within Worcestershire, an estimated 30% of homes are reliant on off-street parking and, as such, are unable to install a private chargepoint on a driveway or in a garage, making the transition to an electric vehicle more difficult. The Department for Transport's **LEVI** fund aims to deliver a step-change in the deployment of local, primarily low power, on-street charging infrastructure across England; and accelerate the commercialisation of, and investment in, the local charging infrastructure sector.

WCC has:

- successfully bid for £3.5 million of capital funding to deliver on-street charging infrastructure under the LEVI scheme to enable residents that park on-street to easily access charging near their homes
- led a procurement exercise (as part of a consortium consisting of four highways authorities across the Midlands region) for two chargepoint operators to supply, install, operate and maintain a network of public chargers funded by LEVI

WCC will:

- implement the LEVI programme, resulting in a minimum of 1,400 7-22kW sockets and minimum of 40 50kW chargepoint sockets be installed through Worcestershire to be achieved within a maximum of 48 months from the contract start date.

In delivering these contracts, Worcestershire is on target to achieve the volume of low powered chargepoints required to support electric vehicle demand in our region by 2030.

The planned infrastructure will also deliver wider benefits including reduction of tailpipe emissions and the associated cost reduction in NHS spending to treat diseases and conditions associated with combustion engine vehicles.



Energy Strategy

In 2019 the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) published the first Energy Strategy for Worcestershire. Given the rate of development in energy since its publication, the strategy will be refreshed by Worcestershire County Council for approval in 2026 to reflect the required change. The main aims of the current strategy (which may be subject to change in the refreshed strategy) are:

- * Reduction in carbon emissions of 50% on 2005 levels by 2030.
- * Double the size of the low carbon sector between 2016 and 2030
- * Tripling energy production from renewable generation by 2030

The Strategy includes the following priority themes:

Access to affordable, clean energy

Fuel poverty affects up to 11.5% of the county. Improving energy efficiency standards will help lift households out of fuel poverty, but efforts should also be made to focus on sources of energy and alternative to costly fuels for homes.

Clean economic growth

Worcestershire's low carbon sector is an area of strength, with many innovative businesses in this area. A number of businesses have previously been supported to improve their energy efficiency or make investments in low carbon technologies

Overcoming infrastructure and development barriers

Limited grid capacity in the county risks the success of planned growth and requires development to overcome these limitations.

The likely future trajectory of electric vehicle ownership will require substantial investment, particularly in rural areas to support the transition to electric motoring.

WCC will:

- Update and refresh Worcestershire's Energy Strategy and ensure the new targets reflect the current energy needs of the county

Solar Together

The Council partnered with independent experts in group-buying, iChoosr Ltd, to bring this opportunity to Worcestershire's homeowners in 2023 and again in 2024.

Solar Together Worcestershire was an innovative scheme offering high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage. It was a group-buying scheme, which brought Worcestershire households, small businesses and community groups together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price.

WCC has:

- in partnership with the solar together scheme in 2023, installed a total of 5,279 solar panels across the county, it is estimated that these installations will deliver over 9,000 tonnes of carbon reduction over 25 years.

WCC will:

- review the opportunity to run the Solar Together scheme over the course of the Sustainability and Efficiency Plan, working in partnership with the Worcestershire district councils.

Energy Planning

The landscape for energy across the UK is changing and WCC are now, more than ever, becoming engaged in energy planning to ensure continuity of supply, energy security and affordability for residents and businesses within Worcestershire.

The aim is to ensure economic growth is not hampered by infrastructure that cannot support the rate of change required. WCC also wish to capitalise on the emerging technologies in the field and set Worcestershire aside as a location for low carbon industry, creating jobs and opportunities within this sector.

Energy distribution companies are planning for the expected future increase in electricity use and as a local authority, the Council needs to play a part in advising where new demand is likely. The business development opportunities which WCC is creating, the housing proposals WCC are approving, the electric vehicle infrastructure WCC is installing and local generation projects WCC is supporting will all have an aggregated impact on the distribution network that need careful planning in order to meet Worcestershire's needs in a timely fashion.

Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)

The aim of a LAEP is to outline the most cost-effective way for a local area to decarbonise and to set out an action plan for implementation. LAEPs are data driven tools that identify the best route for a local area to meet its zero emissions targets and contribute to the UK Government's net zero target.

Worcestershire LEP has led on the development of a LAEP for the county since 2023. A wider steering group involving WLEP, MNZH, WCC Sustainability Team, Planning and Transport, and Waste services has been involved in an advisory and strategic capacity.

WCC has:

- been working with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), as energy supply and distribution is a cross-boundary discipline and requires collaboration on a regional basis. WCC are benefiting from WMCA's resources on this project and utilising specialist planning tools to assist with the process.

WCC will:

- engage on preparation of a LAEP using spatial plans to overlay projected needs against areas of constraint. This element of energy planning will follow on from the adoption of the refreshed Energy Strategy for Worcestershire.

Community Energy

WCC is keen to support community energy project development within the county, and this will be a key focus in the refreshed Energy Strategy.

WCC has:

- -been successful in a bid to the Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH) for their community energy capacity building study. This will support Worcestershire in developing tailored community energy strategies and build local capacity to drive tangible progress through community-led energy initiatives.

WCC will:

- ensure the community energy capacity building study findings are fed into the review and refresh of the Worcestershire Energy Strategy.



Tackling Fuel Poverty - Warmer Worcestershire

The [Warmer Worcestershire Network](#) is a partnership working together to tackle fuel poverty in the county. Fuel poverty is defined as when a household spends 10% or more of its income on energy to heat their home. According to the National Energy Action charity, there are approximately 6.1 million households in the UK living in fuel poverty, struggling to heat their homes to keep warm and well.

As detailed in the Worcestershire Fuel Poverty Plan, the Council operates a number of programmes and support mechanisms to help Worcestershire residents out of fuel poverty, including the Household Support Fund and Warmth on Prescription, alongside the initiatives and grant funding programmes detailed below:

Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2)

The UK Government's HUG2 scheme was administered by WCC in Worcestershire between 2023 and 2025 and provided grants for energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to eligible homes that were low income, off the gas grid and had an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D and G.

A summary of achievements realised by the HUG2 programme include:

- 87 properties supported
- £1, 512,718.94 spent on measures to support Worcestershire residents on the following measures:

Measures installed	Worcestershire HUG2 Installations
Air-source heat pump (ASHP)	38
Radiators and water cylinder to accompany ASHP	38
Electric storage heaters (High-heat retention models)	36
Solar photovoltaic panels installations	64
Programmable heating controls	38
Cavity wall insulation	12
Internal wall insulation	1
Loft insulation	32
Double glazing	10
Ventilation	44
TOTAL	313

Case Study – HUG2

A three-bedroom, off-gas semi-detached property in Wychavon district received £21,186.45 for home energy efficient improvements under the scheme. The home had a broken heating system, and severe damp and mould issues. Its only source of heating was two small Calor gas mobile heaters which were causing significant build-up of condensation and moisture which was contributing to the damp and mould.

Upgrades installed:

- Damp and mould treatment
- Loft insulation
- Solar PV installation
- High heat retention storage heaters
- Improved ventilation (window trickle vents, kitchen and bathroom extractor fans)

Benefits:

- New heating system
- Energy efficiency rating improved from E to C
- Estimated annual CO2 savings: 5.24 tonnes
- Lower energy bills
- Improved ventilation and air quality
- Damp and mould issues resolved
- Warmer home and more comfortable living conditions

One resident with a young family received an air source heat pump (ASHP), loft insulation, solar panels, ventilation, draught proofing and heating controls. They could not thank the HUG team enough and expressed how grateful they were to be able to heat their home without worry. The household energy bills went from approximately £20 a day to £5 a day after the work was completed.

Another resident received an ASHP, loft insulation, ventilation and draught proofing:

The team who undertook the work were fantastic, very kind, patient and explained things clearly. As an elderly lady who lives alone, I was apprehensive about men coming into my home to complete the work, but I felt completely at ease. I am over the moon with the works that have been completed and feel like I have won the lottery. I used to have storage heaters that left me cold by 2pm, but now I am warm all day.

One other resident who benefitted from the HUG2 scheme received an ASHP, heating controls and solar PV. They said:

I am very happy with all the measures. The workers were very courteous and polite, all rubbish was removed quickly and everything left clean and tidy. Very pleased with ASHP which is much better than expected as had heard some horror stories from neighbours before but are happy all is working well.

Warm Homes: Local Grant

The Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme is the new domestic energy efficiency retrofit scheme. It will offer free home energy efficiency and heating improvements for eligible low-income households from 2026. The scheme is designed to improve thermal comfort and energy efficiency for lower income homes in Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon. It offers significant benefits to residents, including lower energy bills and improved living conditions. The scheme is open to properties of any fuel type including mains gas, electricity, oil, coal, LPG, or solid fuels.

WCC has:

- been awarded £3.2million capital from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to spend on home energy efficiency improvements for eligible properties in the three Worcestershire districts

WCC will:

- support approximately 480 homes (assuming an average grant of £15,000 per property) with energy efficiency and low carbon heating improvements by 31st March 2028.

Natural Networks

The Natural Networks Programme offers grants and advice to projects which aim to create or restore wildlife-rich habitats. The programme is a partnership between Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and offers tailored biodiversity surveys which include recommendations for improving the area for wildlife.

To action the recommendations, grants of up to 70% of the project costs are available with the benefit of ongoing advice from the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust until the end of the project. The programme began in 2018 funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), since 2023 it has been funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).



Bull Meadow, Natural Networks Project

WCC has:

- realised the following benefits of the Natural Networks scheme to date:
- Biodiversity advice was given covering nearly 3,000ha
- Direct habitat creation and enhancement on 164ha
- More than 270 projects and more than £900,000 spent directly on biodiversity enhancements
- 75ha of wildflower meadow created
- Nearly 120,000 bulbs and plug plants planted
- Over 31,000 trees and shrubs planted
- 5 ¼ km of hedgerow planted
- 1 ½ km of watercourse enhanced
- 67 ponds created or enhanced
- 915 bird and bat boxes installed
- 50 bee posts installed
- Over 950 people informed about wildlife

These benefits will increase when the programme finishes in March 2026.



Natural Networks Project in Clifton Upon Teme

Countryside Greenspace

The Council's Countryside Greenspace Team provides countryside and urban greenspaces, and advice and support to communities and landowners to enhance biodiversity, landscape character, quality of life for local people and a thriving economy for Worcestershire.

The Countryside Greenspace Team manages 21 public access greenspaces including 3 Green Flag Award winning sites, 2 accredited country parks, nature reserves and picnic places. These sites contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes and provide the opportunity for an inclusive sense of place as well as engaging with the needs of local people, supporting community cohesion, and promoting an environment that protects and enhances nature.

Many organised groups use the greenspaces on a regular basis, including Parkrun, Scouts, Nordic Walkers, Guide Dogs and baby and toddler groups.

The Team is currently developing 4 new nature reserves across the county to provide access to nature and recreational opportunities for local people. The nature reserves will also be contributing towards achieving Biodiversity Net Gain requirements that the Council will need to meet as part of its major infrastructure and development programmes.

New habitats that are being developed include species- rich grasslands, broadleaved native woodland, wetlands, orchards, hedgerows and scrub. These will also play a part in mitigating flood risk and enabling climate resilience. Funding support for the management of these new sites comes from a number of sources, including the Forestry Commission.



Worcester Woods Country Park, lavenders

Countryside Greenspace volunteer work parties are led and supported by WCC at Waseley Hills and Worcester Woods Country Parks, Hartlebury Common, Leapgate Old Railway Line and St. Wulstan's Nature Reserve where members of the public work alongside staff on projects such as hedge laying, woodland management, path maintenance and orchard restoration, making a contribution to the management of the parks, so enhancing the environment of the local area.

Volunteers meet new people, get fresh air, exercise and learn new skills. Taking part provides moderate physical activity, improves muscle strength, relieves stress and can help combat depression.



Tree planting at Norton

WCC has:

- successfully implemented the following schemes:

Tree Warden Scheme

These parish-based volunteers are part of a national network promoted by the Tree Council and coordinated locally by WCC. Tree Wardens carry out surveys, give advice and undertake pruning, planting and care for trees in the communities and parishes where they live. In turn they are supported by the Countryside Greenspace Team, which offers free training and information. There are currently over 8,000 Tree Wardens throughout the UK with around 50 currently in Worcestershire, across 20% of parishes.

Roadside Verge Nature Reserves

Within the county’s highway verge network there are 38 protected Roadside Verge Nature Reserves (RVNR) which are maintained the Countryside Greenspace Team. These sites have been set up to protect the biodiversity (wildflowers and animals) that live and grow within the highway verges. They are easily identified by red and white posts positioned at each end of the reserves.

Community Orchards

With funding from The Coronation Living Heritage Fund, the Greenspace Team created 32 new community orchards, working with a range of communities across the county, added to the 25+ community orchards that the county already had, there are now between 50 and 60 community orchards from schools to village greens, parish fields, parks and greenspaces. These sites act a good way of engaging local people and volunteers with their environment, giving locals a sense of involvement and ownership in their local area, along with fresh air, exercise and wellbeing benefits. Worcestershire has a long and rich heritage of orchards, and with so many orchards having been lost this is a great project to start to redress this long association with orchards.

Mini Forests

A mini or 'Miyawaki' forest is a somewhat new concept to the UK, having originated from Japan. It involves densely planting young saplings in a small area that is specially prepared and heavily mulched after planting in which the trees are left to grow with minimal interference, so representing a cheap and low maintenance method of tree establishment. Working with schools, a parish council and on some of the Council's own greenspaces, 8 of these mini forests have now been established as an experiment in this new method.

Community Greenspace Team - Advice and Support to Local Communities

The Greenspace Team acts as a facilitator to identify grants, galvanize community action, and offer expertise and training. This empowers local communities to manage their own greenspaces that do not require financial input or management from the Countryside Service thereafter. This has led to the development and management of many community greenspaces including community orchards, play areas, community greens and playing fields. The benefits include enhancing the local area, empowering local people, building community cohesion and learning new skills.

Health Walks

Worcestershire Health Walks provide regular walking opportunities for people to access, for health and wellbeing benefits. The Greenspace Team delivers the programme, with funding from Public Health, and provides training and support for 194 volunteer Health Walks Leaders. Health Walks are free, easy and accessible, are between 30-90 minutes long and are friendly and welcome to all ages and abilities and are wheelchair/pushchair accessible.

WCC will:

- continue implementation of the above projects which are run by the Council's Countryside Greenspace Team



Sustainable Economy

WCC cannot improve the local environment alone and will work alongside partners and stakeholders to achieve environmental sustainability and efficiency goals. Working with and supporting communities and businesses is key to achieving these goals. The Council works closely with Midlands Net Zero Hub, Worcestershire LEP and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce to deliver environmental benefits and support to Worcestershire's green economy. By supporting businesses and promoting the green economy, Worcestershire will be well placed to take advantage of future opportunities in this arena.

Clean Growth

Since December 2023, WCC has offered energy support to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) businesses through UK Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF), and [The Business Energy Advice Service \(BEAS\)](#), funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). These programmes have provided tailored energy audits that uncover practical ways to save energy and cut expenses. After an energy review, eligible businesses can apply for grants of up to £100,000, helping them to reduce costs, streamline processes, and build long-term efficiency.

WCC has:

- supported over 250 local Worcestershire businesses which have benefitted from an energy review, and over £1m has been paid in grant funding, saving over 500 tonnes of carbon emissions per year through measures like LED lighting, efficient heating and machinery, and renewable energy, all saving the participating businesses a significant amount on their energy bills. A further £1m in grant funding is expected to be paid before the current Business Energy Advice Service concludes in March 2026.

Companies such as RG Luma Automation have benefited, identifying £19,300 worth of savings on their energy costs thanks to a BEAS review. James Whitehouse, Business Director at RG Luma Automation, said:

“This is an excellent and timely review that I would strongly recommend to any organisation serious about reducing energy consumption and driving down costs. It provides clear, practical insights that can make a real difference to both efficiency and sustainability.”

With operational costs under pressure, these programmes have provided a clear pathway for businesses to save money and secure a stronger future.

WCC will:

- review and communicate the successes of the BEAS scheme when it comes to an end in March 2026 and will keep under review the opportunities to continue provision of energy assessments for businesses and seek government funding to support grant offers for energy efficiency measures.

Midlands Nuclear – Skills and Sitings Studies

The UK Government have identified new nuclear power as playing a critical part in the future energy infrastructure of the country. New nuclear will decarbonise electricity, industry, heat, hydrogen production, and transport fuels production. The Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH), enabled by Midlands Nuclear, recently commissioned [two strategic studies](#) to explore the potential for nuclear energy siting across the Midlands and the current and future nuclear-aligned skills base in the region. These studies identified key potential strategic sites and skills opportunities across the Midlands, a place of immense industrial history which now has opportunities to strategically align itself in the new nuclear revolution under the UK Government’s Clean Power 2030 Action Plan as an enabler of clean electricity, industrial heat, hydrogen, and sustainable fuels.

WCC will:

- keep a watching brief on UK Government’s proposals around new nuclear development

Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector Study

In 2021, the Midlands Net Zero Hub commissioned consultants to report on the size and health of the green economy in the Midlands. The resulting report demonstrated the size, scale and value of the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector in each local authority area. In 2024, the report was updated⁵, showing that the sector was worth £1.8bn in 2023/24.

The sector accounts for 7.6% of GVA and 4.2% of employment with sales accounting for 8.3% of GDP in Worcestershire. The sector is growing, with investment in R&D for the LCEGS sector having grown from £77m to £143m for Private Equity Investment; £152m to £230m for Venture Capital Investment; and £228m to £317m for Other Investment, between 2019/20 and 2023/24.

The study outlined strengths for the county in building technologies, alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, water supply and wastewater treatment, and waste management.

WCC will:

- ensure that the report recommendations are considered and that opportunities in Worcestershire around collaboration are supported and facilitated between WCC, local skill providers, educational institutions, local authorities and businesses operating in the LCEGS sector. This collaboration should focus on ensuring there are training courses and apprenticeships available which address skills gaps.

Industrial Zones Decarbonisation Studies

Two areas in Worcestershire secured funding through the Midlands Net Zero Hub in 2025 to conduct decarbonisation studies looking at industrial areas in Worcester and Redditch. The MNZH is looking at these studies as pilot projects which will provide a blueprint for the decarbonisation of other industrial and commercial zones in the Midlands.

In offering this funding, the MNZH recognised the importance of industrial decarbonisation to secure industries and jobs across the region, in the face of rapidly rising energy bills particularly impacting manufacturing and other energy-intensive industries.

⁵ https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/media/m3lduo3r/worcestershire_lcegs_2024_final_pdf

Whilst previous work has focused on tackling energy usage in individual businesses, these studies take a place-based approach, with opportunities for businesses to collaborate on energy and resource efficiency projects are sought. For example, it may be that a business has significant waste heat, which could be utilised in a neighbouring business. These studies seek to both identify any opportunities that exist in the areas being studied, and also identify the barriers faced by businesses looking to collaborate in this way.

WCC will:

- take note of the outcomes of these studies and the resulting recommendations as Local Authorities have a key role to play in supporting these projects. The information will be useful in the future development of a Local Area Energy Plan.

Green Skills

The Council's Skills and Employment team, in partnership with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, works collaboratively to address the skills and recruitment needs of employers across the county. A key principle of this area is to ensure sustainability remains a golden thread throughout all curriculums within the county whether environmental focused or any vocational subject, enabling an effective response to the sustainability agenda within all vocations.

WCC will:

- consider the need to conduct a comprehensive review of the current curriculum to identify where sustainability principles are already embedded and where further integration is needed. This will ensure that learners develop the knowledge and skills required to support a low-carbon economy and environmentally responsible practices across sectors
- leverage key Employment and Skills programmes such as Skills Bootcamps, Early Careers, Adult Learning opportunities, and Further Education college curriculums to drive sustainability-focused training. These levers provide flexible pathways for upskilling and reskilling the workforce, enabling individuals to adapt to emerging green technologies and sustainable business models. As part of this, Early Careers will look to raise awareness through schools using the Primary Schools STEM programme and the secondary Early Careers curriculum
- prioritise and promote to partners the role of sustainability within construction-related training and qualifications, recognising the sector's significant role in achieving net-zero targets. This includes asking partners to promoting energy-efficient building techniques, sustainable materials, and compliance with environmental standards through both Further Education Colleges, such as Kidderminster College, and future construction centres and developments
- align all skills development initiatives with the Government's Clean Growth Strategy, ensuring that local actions contribute to national objectives for reducing carbon emissions, improving resource efficiency, and fostering green innovation
- highlight to partners the role sustainability plays and the connections to the wider Industrial Strategy, demonstrating how embedding sustainability within skills provision supports long-term economic growth, competitiveness, and resilience. This alignment reinforces the importance of green skills as a driver for future prosperity
- ensure strong links to the 'Get Worcestershire Working' initiative, embedding sustainability within local employment and skills programmes to create green job opportunities, support inclusive growth, and help residents access careers in emerging low-carbon sectors

- raise awareness of sustainability within careers advice for young people through Careers Worcestershire, ensuring that future generations understand the importance of green skills and are inspired to pursue careers that contribute to a sustainable economy.

Regenerative Tourism

The Council's Visit Worcestershire Team within the Growth and Investment Team promote sustainable tourism across the county. As part of WCC's ongoing work to support local tourism businesses to be more sustainable and gain a better understanding of regenerative tourism practices, the Council held a regenerative tourism network event in September 2025.

Green Tourism Award

The internationally recognised Green Tourism accreditation is a certification that demonstrates a business's commitment to sustainability within the tourism and hospitality sector. It involves meeting criteria across areas like reducing carbon footprint, improving biodiversity, eliminating single-use items, and supporting local communities, with assessments verified by expert auditors. The Green Tourism accreditation provides manageable ways for businesses to benchmark, evidence, and advance their sustainable standards.

WCC has:

- achieved the Gold Standard Green Tourism accreditation – this is awarded to businesses that achieve over 80% of the sustainability criteria, demonstrating exceptional commitment to environmental responsibility. As more travellers seek environmentally responsible experiences, this accolade makes the county the place to visit for regenerative tourism.

Regenerative Tourism Awards

The Regenerative Tourism Award celebrates tourism businesses from across the visitor economy who are truly committed to championing and delivering a regenerative tourism approach to their sustainable actions. It celebrates businesses that go beyond sustainability by actively improving destinations for the environment, local communities, and visitors. 5 Worcestershire businesses entered this award category for the 2025/2026 Visit Worcestershire Tourism awards and the winner will be announced at the awards ceremony in March 2026.

WCC will:

- continue to support regenerative tourism in the county



Appendix 1 - WCC Corporate Sustainability and Efficiency Action Plan 2026-2028

The Corporate Sustainability and Efficiency Action Plan will be updated on an annual basis, and updates on projects will be presented to the quarterly Sustainability Board meetings.

Project Number	Area of Focus	Category	Project Description	Project Team
1.1	Council	WCC Estate	Identify future opportunities to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures through the Property Capital Maintenance and Energy Efficiency Spend to Save programmes, with opportunities identified through surveys and benchmarking, focussing on sites which have a long-term future	Property Services
1.2	Council	WCC Estate	Review opportunities to introduce large-scale renewable energy on our land assets where there is a business case to investigate this	Property Services
1.3	Council	WCC Estate	Continue implementation of the corporate Sustainable Design and Estate Principles Guide	Property Services
1.4	Council	WCC Estate	Review opportunities to purchase renewable energy over the lifetime of the SEP.	Commercial
1.5	Council	WCC Estate	Adopt a Heating and Cooling Policy for WCC properties.	Property Services
1.6	Council	WCC Estate	Review opportunities when purchasing white goods to ensure they are the most energy efficient model (supported through the Spend to Save Fund).	Property Services
1.7	Council	WCC Estate	Review opportunities for the introduction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at Council sites to support WCC Fleet, staff and visitors to transition to low-and no-emission vehicles.	Property Services / Sustainability
1.8	Council	Streelighting	Light on demand where feasible to do so and review further opportunities to invest in technology. e.g., smart lighting controls and management systems.	Streelighting
1.9	Council	Streelighting	Keep under review the efficiency of older LED lights which may need replacement with more efficient models.	Streelighting
1.10	Council	Streelighting	Update the old conventional lighting in WCC operated subways to LED.	Streelighting

Project Number	Area of Focus	Category	Project Description	Project Team
1.11	Council	Fleet Transport	Identify ULEV options to replace vehicles when funding is made available to so, with purchase of electric vehicles being the first consideration for replacement vehicles with the business cases being assessed on a case-by-case basis. Where replacement with a ULEV is not viable, WCC to replace with a minimum EURO 6 standard vehicle.	Fleet Transport
1.12	Council	Fleet Transport	Review opportunities to invest in ULEV vehicle options supported through the corporate Energy Efficiency Spend to Save Fund.	Fleet Transport
1.13	Council	Fleet Transport	Introduce a new electric mobile library vehicle in 2026 which will replace the current diesel fuelled mobile library utilising grant funding from the Arts Council.	Fleet Transport
1.14	Council	Fleet Transport	Keep under review the use of alternative lower-emission fuels, such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), assessed on a case-by-case basis.	Fleet Transport
1.15	Council	WCC Grey Fleet	Review electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure requirements in WCC car parks to support staff to transition to electric vehicles.	Commercial/ Propert Services/ Sustainability
1.16	Council	Awareness and Training	Review options for refreshing and relaunching sustainability training for WCC staff, Senior Management, and Councillors.	Sustainability
1.17	Council	WCC Procurement, Supply Chain and Investments	Review existing and future contracting requirements and work with suppliers to set environmental contract clauses, linking with social value clauses in contracts and reviewing opportunities to include stipulations on suppliers around reducing emissions and environmental impacts, in particular where this will reduce cost of service delivery.	Commercial
1.18	Council	WCC Procurement, Supply Chain and Investments	Maximise procurement spend with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) through the new National Procurement Policy Statement.	Commercial

Project Number	Area of Focus	Category	Project Description	Project Team
1.19	Council	Adaption to Climate Change	<p>Continue to assess climate risk and adaptation measures through the Council's corporate Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for all new Council projects.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which details all flood alleviation work and future plans in this area.</p> <p>Continue implementation of the natural flood management programme.</p> <p>Continue to work with partners on the risks posed by hot weather.</p>	Sustainability/ Flood Risk Team
2.1	Community	Household Waste Disposal	Ensure that the procurement of the Council's new waste contract reviews all opportunities for efficiencies and reduces the environmental impacts of future waste disposal.	Waste
2.2	Community	Household Waste Disposal	Keep under review the viability of carbon reducing technologies (including CCS) for EfW.	Waste
2.3	Community	Household Waste Disposal	Continue to work in partnership with the districts to implement changes to household waste collection, as outlined in Environment Act 2021 (e.g. simpler recycling and food waste collections).	Waste
2.4	Community	Household Waste Disposal	Complete a feasibility study considering the opportunities for anaerobic digestion facilities in the county.	Waste/Sustainability
2.5	Community	Household Waste Disposal	Continue to promote waste prevention initiatives to households.	Waste
2.6	Community	Contracted Fleet	Continue implementing WoD bus services, providing vehicles only when and where necessary, making efficiency savings and promoting health and air quality benefits.	Transport
2.7	Community	Contracted Fleet	Install sustainable bus shelters as default option.	Transport
2.8	Community	Contracted Fleet	Implement the Worcestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to encourage uptake of bus services as opposed to individuals travelling in private vehicles.	Transport

Project Number	Area of Focus	Category	Project Description	Project Team
2.9	Community	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Implement the EVCI Strategy and measure progress against the KPIs within the strategy Implement the Government-funded LEVI programme, resulting in a minimum of 1,400 7-22kW sockets and minimum of 40 50kW chargepoint sockets be installed through Worcestershire to be achieved within a maximum of 48 months from the contract start date.	Planning
2.10	Community	Energy Strategy	Update and refresh the Worcestershire Energy Strategy including a refresh of the targets, to specifically include Community Energy.	Sustainability
2.11	Community	Energy Strategy	Engage on preparation of a LAEP using spatial plans to overlay projected needs against areas of constraint.	Sustainability
2.12	Community	Energy Strategy	Ensure the community energy capacity building study findings are fed into the review and refresh of the Worcestershire Energy Strategy.	Sustainability
2.13	Community	Energy Strategy	WCC will review the opportunity to run the Solar Together scheme over the course of the Sustainability and Efficiency Plan, working in partnership with the district councils.	Sustainability
2.14	Community	Tackling Fuel Poverty	Deliver £3.2 million WH:LG capital allocation on home efficiency improvements for eligible properties in three Worcestershire districts, supporting approximately 480 homes (assuming an average grant of £15,000 per property) by 31st March 2028.	Sustainability
2.15	Community	Countryside Greenspace	Commitment to plant 150,000 trees.	Countryside Greenspace
2.16	Community	Countryside Greenspace	Continue implementation of, and support for, Countryside Greenspace projects and programmes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Warden Scheme • Roadside Nature Reserves • Community Orchards and Mini Forests • Advice and support to communities • Health Walks 	Countryside Greenspace

Project Number	Area of Focus	Category	Project Description	Project Team
3.1	Economy	Clean Growth	Review and communicate the successes of the BEAS in March 2026 and review the opportunities to continue provision of energy assessments for businesses and seek government funding to support grant offers for energy efficiency measures.	Clean Growth/ Sustainability
3.2	Economy	Clean Growth/ Sustainability	Keep a watching brief on UK Government's proposals around new nuclear development.	Clean Growth/ Sustainability
3.3	Economy	Low Carbon Good and Services	Ensure that the LCEGS report recommendations are considered and that opportunities in Worcestershire around collaboration are supported and facilitated between WCC, local skill providers, educational institutions, local authorities and businesses operating in the LCEGS sector.	Clean Growth/ Sustainability
3.4	Economy	Clean Growth	Review findings of the industrial decarbonisation studies in Worcester and Redditch and potential integration in.	Clean Growth/ Sustainability
3.5	Economy	Green Skills	<p>Consider the need to conduct a comprehensive review and gap-analysis of sustainability principles in the current curriculum.</p> <p>Leverage key Employment and Skills programmes to drive sustainability-focused training.</p> <p>Prioritise and promote sustainability within construction-related training and qualifications, recognising the sector's significant role in achieving net-zero targets.</p> <p>Align all skills development initiatives with the Government's Clean Growth Strategy, contributing to national objectives for reducing carbon emissions, improving resource efficiency, and fostering green innovation.</p> <p>Highlight connections to the wider Industrial Strategy, demonstrating how embedding sustainability within skills provision supports long-term economic growth, competitiveness, and resilience.</p> <p>Ensure strong links to the 'Get Worcestershire Working' initiative, embedding sustainability within local employment and skills programmes.</p> <p>Raise awareness of sustainability within careers advice for young people through Careers Worcestershire.</p>	Skills and Employability

Project Number	Area of Focus	Category	Project Description	Project Team
3.6	Economy	Regenerative Tourism	Continue to support regenerative tourism in the county.	Visit Worcestershire



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