



Progress Update on Interim Climate Action Plan 2023-25

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Introduction

In the intervening period between the Council's 2019 Action Plan (reported in the previous Annual Report) and the decision in 2024 to refocus activity with a new Corporate Strategy and commission a Local Area Energy Plan, Cabinet approved an interim Action Plan to maintain positive momentum towards our climate commitments. This has been active during the last two years and the resulting update on the outcome of activities is presented below.

1. People & Communities

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Launch refreshed internal Climate Action Network model across directorates.	Existing group maintained, but relaunch on hold awaiting staff resource	Amber	Sustainability
Continue to build on all-staff and councillor training on the council's climate action plan and carbon literacy	Funded carbon literacy training for officers, members and the business community has commenced	Green	Sustainability
Develop and implement an internal communications plan to keep staff updated on climate action work, including useful advice and guidance on how to incorporate climate action into projects and programmes	On hold awaiting staff resource in March 2025	Paused	Sustainability
Incorporate climate action opportunities within council volunteering scheme for staff	Volunteering opportunities currently offered in parks and countryside locations and the Council's 'new to You' reuse shop.	Green	Environment
Develop & implement an external communications plan which shares updates on the climate action work undertaken by the council, and advice and guidance to residents, businesses and the voluntary and community sector on reducing carbon emissions.	On hold awaiting staff resource in March 2025	Paused	Sustainability
Identify areas in our community that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change to ensure they are	The Flood & Coastal Team has helped develop flooding and coastal change policies included in the draft BCP local plan.	Amber	FCERM

supported and protected to promote wider community wellbeing	Planned future work includes community education and awareness regarding flooding and coastal erosion.		
Expand the Schools Environment Award - 7 environmental focused topics with activities to complete to attain a bronze, silver or gold award	Since 2023, 22 schools have participated in the School's Environment Award, with 3 network meetings held each year.	Green	Environment
Inclusion of 'Drought' to the BCP Council Emergency Plan	Drought is included within the BCP Council severe weather emergency response plan	Green	Emergency Planning and Resilience
Work with partner agencies to help residents and businesses adapt and plan for climate risks	Joint working with public sector organisations on adaptation is in early stages with meetings held	Green	Sustainability
Produce an Event Sustainability Policy to support transition to making event management carbon neutral integrating learning already in place with Arts by the Sea.	An Events Sustainability Policy has been developed to promote sustainable initiatives to event organisers. This is reviewed annually and will be accessible to organisers on a new BCP events webpage as a part of a wider events framework by Spring/Summer.	Green	Commercial Operations

2. Business & Economy

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Deliver Climate Essentials allowing 250 businesses within BCP area to sign up and set up carbon pledges and work towards net zero.	Contract ongoing with free access to platform and support. 33 decarbonisation plans created in 23/24 and 24/25 (via UKSPF). 13 decarbonisation plans created in first campaign in 22/23.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure
Identifying effective ways for all business, irrespective of size and sector, to improve resource efficiency and minimise carbon use, including logistics, production and processes.	Carbon Literacy accreditation gained, and free training (and certification) offered to BCP SMEs. Free access and support with Climate Essentials platform and 20 low carbon grants issued to implement measures to reduce carbon impact (in line with their decarbonisation plan)	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Unlock new business opportunities in the clean growth economy.	General business support and grant schemes for BCP based	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

	businesses - including those in the clean growth economy.		
Use UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to achieve sustainability interventions, including community measures to reduce the cost of living, improve energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change; supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy; green skills courses ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero ambitions.	<p>The Communities team (through UKSPF) sourced Ridgewater Energy to provide domestic energy efficiency advice and grants to implement these measures. To date, 953 household have been supported to take up measures.</p> <p>Green Skills delivered by BPC as part of the UKSPF programme.</p>	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

3. Digital & Smart Places

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Lead on the acceleration of the deployment of affordable gigabit fibre for effective videoconferencing/ working from home	An Expression of Interest of co-funding investment was received in January 2024 to deploy gigabit fibre in Boscombe to support Towns Fund Digital Connectivity programme. Awaiting proof of funds from investor and legal contract to be signed to enable investment.	Amber	Smart Places
Seek funding for wide-scale roll-out of remote monitoring technologies	Towns Fund Digital Connectivity Programme has delivered pilot projects for remote monitoring water quality in Boscombe. A remote monitoring air quality project is due to launch in April in Boscombe. If successful, business cases for scale up will be developed with service units.	Green	Smart Places
Linking local businesses more effectively into the supply chain to help to reduce emissions associated with deliveries	Other projects within Towns Fund have had to be prioritised to support delivery of committed outcomes.	Paused	Smart Places
Explore how enabling digital technology can support the roll-out of a local energy network	Meetings with the Sustainability team to explore how digital technology can support solar PV on car parks in Boscombe as part of the Towns Fund. No projects initiated as yet due to funding.	Paused	Smart Places

4. Transport & Travel

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Continue investment in adopted Sustainable fleet replacement strategy and develop strategy refresh for 2025	Sustainable Fleet Replacement Strategy Report to be presented to Cabinet in February 2025, proposing a further increase in the Council EV fleet.	Green	Environment
Maximise agile working opportunities to reduce avoidable commuting	The accommodation and business transformation programmes underlying the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan will cut Council emissions through a reduced estate and different ways of working, including the continued ability for staff to work effectively from home.	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Integrate decarbonisation of the transport system into Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)	The LTP4 strategy is currently in development. The draft strategy includes a core policy aimed at reducing transport carbon emissions on a pathway compatible with national, regional and local budgets and net zero commitments. To quantify the decarbonisation associated with the policies contained within the LTP4 all schemes included for development and delivery within a supporting implementation plan will undergo a quantified carbon reduction assessment (QCR4).	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Continue to bid for, and deliver on, Active Travel England funding to deliver improved public infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling.	<p>Total Active Travel England funding awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 - £3,923,500 2024 - £763,971 <p>(Note we have consistently secured all of, or in excess of, our indicative allocations. Total funding available varies from year to year)</p>	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Work towards transition to Zero carbon highway infrastructure construction	A Carbon Assessment toolkit has been procured to calculate a carbon baseline for highway improvement and maintenance works. This can be updated annually to track changes in emissions and effects of changes in material selections. A training	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

	programme is in place to develop an internal modelling capability.		
Commence development of future adaptation plans to manage extreme weather events and long-term strains on network	Spring 2024 public consultation on the Local Transport Plan 4 established that: 'People are concerned about environmental impacts on transport such as flooding, and do not want these threats to worsen. Interventions must aim to reduce these threats or increase resilience of local transport systems.' This will be addressed in the Plan.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure
Deliver £8.9m of Government funding secured to support the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) with the local bus network continuing to be developed under an Enhanced Partnership between the Council and bus operators.	Bus patronage increased to 24.85 million in 2024 calendar year compared to 22.96 in 2023. Updated BSIP published June 2024. Enhanced Partnership progressing well with many measures and facilities delivered and others at advanced planning stage. Further funding secured for 2025/6 to allow continuation of many existing initiatives with new proposals proposed.	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Work with the Council's highways partner, WSP, who have globally committed to reducing the embodied carbon of their designs and advice by 50% by 2030.	WSP has made progress towards their commitment to halve carbon in their designs and advice in the decade up to 2030, alongside maintaining accreditation with the new PAS2080:2023 carbon management standard. Through the BCP engineering services contract, WSP has provided carbon reduction advice on two Transforming Cities Fund schemes, C2-3 Glenferness and S5-234 Ringwood Road. Baseline carbon assessments were completed for both schemes and workshops with the chosen contractors were held to identify carbon reduction opportunities. In the case of C2-3 Glenferness, the advised reduction opportunities had the potential to achieve up to a 22% reduction.	Green	Growth & Infrastructure
Monitor the 'School Streets' pilot scheme operating at four schools, closing the road directly outside to help reduce road danger and improve air quality locally and	Number of schools benefitting from permanent School Streets – 7 Number of schools currently trialling School Streets – 3	Green	Growth & Infrastructure

expand School Streets programme to include further locations			
Pending a successful bid for government Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) funding implement phase 3 of the EV Charging Programme on-street facilities	The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) funding of 1.47 million has been delayed due to OZEV moving away from the original broader specification to a tighter lower charging on-street remit only. Funding is due to be available from the end of January 2025, we will then go out to tender, then finally move into the delivery phase.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure
Continue to promote sustainable transport offers both to employees, public and business	Staff travel survey carried out in 2022 and 2024 In 2022 – 71% of respondents regularly drove a car to work, and 26% regularly travelled actively. In 2024 – 72% of respondents regularly drove a car to work, and 29% regularly travelled actively.	Amber	Growth & Infrastructure

5. Water Resources & Flooding

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Commence work to support BCP Area is adapted and 'Climate Safe' in line with risk profiles	The Flood & Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) team has helped develop flooding and coastal change policies included in the draft BCP local plan.	Green	FCERM
Develop a local climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan	On hold awaiting staff resource in March 2025	Paused	Sustainability
Develop a new BCP-wide cliff management strategy	The work to develop a new BCP Cliff Management Strategy is ongoing. However, a consequence of the work completed to date is that we are developing a comprehensive understanding of the risks cliff instability along the BCP sea cliffs and chimes pose, and the challenges of how they can be managed in future, which will require significant investment by BCP. To support the work of addressing issues being identified in an integrated way, a new Cliff Management Working Group of senior officers has been	Amber	FCERM

	established to improve co-ordination across the various teams within BCP that have a role in this.		
Develop a new BCP-wide Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to consider all sources of flooding and how they are addressed	FCERM have focused efforts on Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to support the Local Plan. Recruitment of in-house modelling expertise has allowed this to progress, and the new BCP wide flood model will provide the foundation for renewing our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Legacy LFRMS's remain in force and scoping work for Surface Water Management Plans are being progressed, with a bid for funding already submitted.	Green	FCERM
Create Strategies and Action Plans to engage all sectors in adaptation work	The Christchurch Bay & Harbour FCERM Strategy has been approved and adopted by BCP Council in October 2024. It is in the process of being approved by the Environment Agency. Once that occurs, we will have an adaptive plan for how we manage coastal flood and erosion risks in this area over the next 100 years. A key action in the immediate term will be developing a funding strategy to identify how the significant funding contributions needed to implement the preferred pathway options can be achieved.	Green	FCERM

6. Energy Generation & Use

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Development of the Local Climate Partnership (LCP). Stakeholders coming together to work on a net zero vision for the BCP and Dorset area.	Partnership established – first meeting 11 July 2024	Green	Sustainability
Production of a Local Area Energy Plan to support the development of the Local Plan	LAEP commissioned – draft publication March 2025	Green	Sustainability

Develop a strategic energy partnership with a leading energy industry to help achieve 2030 and 2050 targets to provide significant acceleration to achieve net-zero targets	Awaiting publication of the LAEP	Paused	Sustainability
Assess 8 large Council sites identified where solar PV could be installed for self-consumption	Assessments found 3 viable sites. Outline Business Cases prepared for consideration	Amber	Sustainability
Develop and agree a science-based emission reduction pathway for the BCP area as part of the LEAP	LAEP commissioned – draft publication March 2025	Green	Sustainability
Explore options for a Geothermal energy network to provide a cost-effective, carbon-free district heating infrastructure for 35+ years	Funding for study obtained from South West Net Zero Hub – to commence in 2025	Green	Sustainability
Commence development a local offsetting scheme for area-wide emissions remaining at 2050	Scheme to be discussed by newly formed LCP	Amber	Sustainability

7. Buildings & Homes

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Develop a renewable energy and energy efficiency capital works programme for council buildings and estates Including opportunities to retrofit energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy generation across the estate on completion of the Asset Review	Asset Management Plan in preparation. Carbon Neutral Steering Group developing a renewable energy and energy efficiency capital works programme beginning with the top 25 gas and electricity using sites.	Amber	Estates/ Sustainability/ Facilities Management
Ensure we realise opportunities to catalyse low carbon developments through the Local Plan and Big Plan	The new draft BCP Local Plan includes the objective: 'Achieve carbon neutrality ahead of 2050 and take action to combat and adapt to the climate and ecological emergency' which is developed in 'Strategic Policy S1: Addressing the climate and ecological emergency'	Green	Planning
Work with partners to maximise funding opportunities for retrofitting homes	Work with Dorset Council, SW Net Zero Hub and other partners has leveraged funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, ECO, Shared	Green	Climate

	Prosperity Fund and Household Support Fund to retrofit resident's homes.		
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8. Resources & Waste

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Develop business case for a new operational depot within the BCP area that supports core universal service delivery for our communities whilst greening our operational service delivery.	The project is progressing, awaiting a report on site options in order to drill down to the preferred choice. A formal pre-planning discussion will follow.	Green	Environment
Harmonise waste disposal infrastructure and sites across the BCP area to improve service provision	Hurn Transfer Station & Wilverley Road Recycling Centre were successfully brought in-house in August 2024 to harmonise recycling centre provision	Green	Environment
Continue to respond to consultations relating to the Resources & Waste Strategy for England	Officers have continued to respond to various consultations including consistency (simpler recycling), statutory guidance, packaging, WEEE directly regarding the UK's waste reforms	Green	Environment
Implement changes to waste & recycling collection to meet the 2021 Environment Bill requirements	Cabinet in May 2024 approved the introduction of food waste collections for outstanding BCP households from March 2026 and commercial food waste collections from March 2025 as required by the Environment Act 2021. 6% increase in recycling rate is modelled from BCP wide food waste collections.	Green	Environment
Target communications to reduce contamination and enhance recycling efforts.	Communications such as stickers, bin hangers, leaflets and social media engagement have taken place. However, national recycling levels have plateaued, hence the simpler recycling reforms to boost recycling rates.	Amber	Environment
Model implementation of underground bin infrastructure at residential properties, town centres, seafront, and parks	Modelling currently underway of underground bin network for Bournemouth & Poole Town	Amber	Environment

	Centre areas with a business case anticipated later in 2025.		
Support the implementation of the national Deposit Return Scheme to enhance recycling of drinks packaging	Delayed nationally until October 2027	Amber	Environment
Promote and grow the BCP New to You facility which promotes and facilitates upcycling, resale, reuse and recycling of good rather than landfill	2024 – gross annual income £126k, up £23k previous year.	Green	Environment

9. Environment & Place

Action	Progress update	RAG status	Lead Service
Development & adoption of a Trees and Woodland Strategy including Identifying sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on our land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture	Trees and Woodland Strategy adopted by Cabinet. In the process of setting up a working group across services to liaise with communities and investigate funding opportunities	Green	Environment
Produce an Urban Greening Design Guide and associated example interventions	Urban Greening Design Guide to be published at end of March 2025 and then included in pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Green	Environment
Develop the Biodiversity Net Gain requirement to measurably improve the natural environment into a sensible, practical and commensurate arrangement	Biodiversity Net Gain requirement is included in the forthcoming Local Plan and is mandated by Government on most applications	Green	Environment
Develop understanding of Green Finance investment models and apply them within BCP, linking with Biodiversity Net Gain to create mechanisms to invest in our natural environment.	Sought Cabinet approval to set up habit banking vehicle. Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund work successfully completed and second NEIRF bid successful to work with farmers in Stour Valley	Green	Environment

Deliver master plan for Harbourside Park (Whitecliff and Baiter) including renovation of the sluice channel to ensure Poole Park Lagoon remains a wildlife haven.	Master Plan published on Council website and sluice channel project is out to tender	Green	Environment
Development of a pan-Dorset Local Nature Recovery (LNR) Strategy.	Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy will undergo public consultation in April 2025 before formal adoption	Green	Environment
Expand Green Heart Parks model so that parks are at the centre of our communities, providing opportunities to engage with nature, volunteering and create health and well-being benefits	There are 14 Green Heart Parks actively worked on and engaging with hard-to-reach communities	Green	Environment
Formalise grounds maintenance operations to enhance biodiversity incl. move to perennial planting and tree cover including considering the need for mowing, opportunities to allow for wilding, and reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible	Site maps prepared for public and grounds maintenance teams. Wilder areas are mapped so teams can follow and explain to public when asked about changes (e.g. wilding, space for nature, biodiversity). The majority of annual bedding has been removed and moved to perennial planting in parks	Green	Environment
Explore adaptation opportunities for sites to accommodate extreme weather events Opportunities for use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and natural features for water attenuation	Winton Recreation Ground SUDS has been introduced to alleviate flooding. Ongoing work planned to further address this issue in ward-based plans	Green	Environment
Embed Green Infrastructure strategy in housing development alongside emerging Urban Greening work	Work taken forward with BCP Homes and input to planning applications	Green	Environment
Ensure the Big Plan, Local Plan, & Asset Management Plans together with revisions to the Corporate Strategy are underpinned by sustainability and develop a BCP sustainability policy	The new Corporate Strategy includes the ambition 'Climate change is tackled through sustainable policies and practice', with Focus Areas and measurements to report on activity. The draft BCP Local Plan includes 'Strategic Policy S1: addressing the climate and ecological emergency'. A	Amber	Policy Sustainability Planning

	sustainability Policy is due to be developed during 2025.		
Protect the marine environment from pollution originating from beach-users through education and behaviour change	Bathing beaches are cleaned each day in high season to remove litter. Toy libraries are in place to enable re-use of discarded beach items. Water refill points along the coast encourage use of refillable water bottles.	Amber	Commercial Operations

Key to action RAG status

Green	Activity completed/progressing well
Amber	Activity maintained/partially complete
Red	Activity stopped
Paused	Activity awaiting decision/resources/funding