

Proposed strategic approach to sustainability and climate change for Warwick District Council

1. Introduction

The Sustainable Community Strategy (2009-2026)¹ sets the shared vision for the District as:

“Warwick District, a great place to live, work and visit, where we aspire to build sustainable, safer, stronger and healthier communities”.

In line with this vision, this document outlines how the Council will play its role in making the District more sustainable, by addressing key issues such as climate change, energy security and depletion of natural resources. It defines our strategic aims and associated objectives, and presents an action plan - covering the period 2014-2016 - which describes how the aims and objectives will be fulfilled in the short-to-medium term.

Why do we need to define a strategic approach to sustainability?

Sustainability is a complex, multi-faceted and ever-evolving issue, and one which frequently involves making choices between competing priorities. Therefore, if it is to be addressed effectively, aims and objectives need to be defined and priorities set.

The Council recognises that in its role as a public authority, service provider and community leader it is uniquely placed to make a significant difference to the sustainability of the District, both through the actions it takes to address its own impacts and vulnerabilities, and the influence it brings to bear within the wider community.

2. Priority issues relating to sustainability to be addressed by this strategic approach

Greenhouse gas emissions

It is now widely accepted that climate change is happening and that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions - primarily of carbon dioxide resulting from the burning of fossil fuels to generate energy for domestic, commercial / industrial and transport uses - are the main cause. The UK is committed under the Climate Change Act 2008 to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, using 1990 as a baseline.

In March 2011, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the Vice-Chair of the Local Government Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding² designed to recognise the pivotal role that local councils have in taking action to combat climate change by taking action to:

- reduce energy consumption from their own estate, and from homes, businesses and transport;
- create more renewable energy generation; and,
- participate in national initiatives at the local level.

¹ Warwick Partnership, 2009. *A Shared Vision. Warwick District's Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026*

² DCLG & LGA, 2011. *Memorandum of Understanding between the Local Government Association and the Department of Energy and Climate Change*

Annual statistics for each local authority area are published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on carbon dioxide emissions according to end use of energy³. Warwick District's CO₂ emissions in 2012 (latest data) were 1,150,300 tCO₂, which equates to 8.3 tonnes per capita. This figure is made up of emissions arising from domestic, transport-related and industrial / commercial energy uses. The split between uses is shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Warwick District greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂ per annum) by sector (2012 data) (Source: DECC 2014)

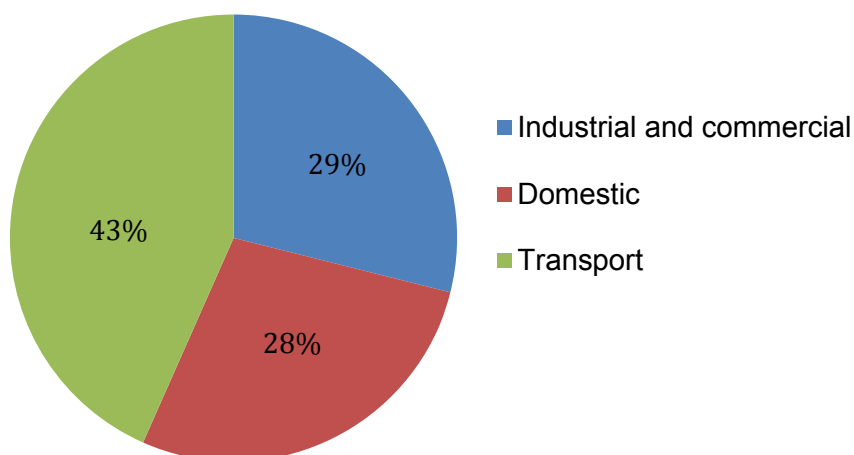


Table 2.2 compares Warwick District's per capita emissions with the average for the West Midlands, England and the UK as a whole, and shows that the District's emissions are significantly higher than regional and national averages.

Table 2.2: Comparison of Warwick District's greenhouse gas emissions with the average for the region, England and the UK

Area	Total per capita emissions (tCO ₂ per annum)	Per capita emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities ⁴ (tCO ₂ per annum)
Warwick District	8.3	6.7
West Midlands	6.9	5.9
England	7.0	6.0
UK	7.1	6.2

³ DECC, 2014. Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions Estimates 2012. Statistical Release 26th June 2014

⁴ These figures are adjusted to remove emissions that local authorities cannot influence or control, such as those associated with national transport infrastructure

In terms of trends, Warwick District's emissions have shown a reduction since statistics were first published in 2005, with a decrease of 11% based on area total and 13.5% on a per capita basis. However, modelling carried out on behalf of the Council by Encraft⁵ predicts that, for a business as usual scenario, emissions are likely to stay approximately constant overall during the period 2012 to 2027, meaning that without significant intervention, the District will not make a contribution to the UK achieving its carbon dioxide reduction targets, as described above.

The Council's own greenhouse gas emissions resulting directly from its estate and operations were 6,375 tCO_{2e}⁶ for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, representing approximately 0.6% of the total for the District⁷.

Energy efficiency in buildings

Reducing energy consumption produces wide a range of benefits including: cost savings; carbon emissions reductions; creation of jobs; greater security of energy supply; and, protection against future increases in fuel costs. It is an area that we as a local authority, in our position as domestic and commercial landlord, private sector housing regulator, energy consumer and community leader, are in a position to significantly influence.

Under the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), the Council has a legal duty to promote domestic energy efficiency in the District, and every two years is required to prepare a report setting out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area. The latest report was published in March 2013⁸ and includes an action plan detailing the activities to be carried out during the period 2013-2015.

One of the biggest challenges in reducing domestic energy use in the District is with the existing privately-owned stock. Despite a history of grants and incentive schemes designed to encourage homeowners to install energy efficiency measures, there still remain a large number of unfilled cavities and poorly insulated lofts, leaving scope for significant improvements in this area. The average Energy Performance Certificate⁹ rating of properties in Warwick District is Band D (score of 60.8), with a potential rating of Band C (score of 70.2).¹⁰

Where the Council's own housing stock is concerned, whilst almost all have been fitted with energy efficient boilers, minimum levels of loft insulation and, where appropriate, cavity wall insulation, there are still a significant number of so-called 'hard to treat' properties, which are older dwellings with uninsulated solid walls. Opportunities are available through the Energy

⁵ Encraft, 2012. *Low Carbon Action Plan Evidence Base Annex 1 – Current and Future Energy Demands*

⁶ The total quantity of greenhouse gas emissions emitted, expressed as an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide (tCO_{2e}). For each individual greenhouse gas a conversion factor is applied based on its global warming potential compared to that of carbon dioxide

⁷ Warwick District Council, 2013. *Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Local Authority own estate and operations (Successor to National Indicator 185)*. Warwick District Council

⁸ Warwick District Council, 2013. *Home Energy Conservation Act 1995*. Warwick District Council *Further Report 2013*

⁹ Energy performance certificates (EPCs) provides a rating for residential and commercial buildings, showing their energy efficiency based on the performance of the building itself and its services (such as heating and lighting). EPCs are required whenever a building is built, sold or rented out

¹⁰ Act on Energy, 2014 *Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund Warm & Well In Warwickshire Project Evaluation 2012/13*

Company Obligation (ECO)¹¹ to part-fund solid wall insulation of these properties, and the Council is currently investigating options for accessing this.

In terms of the Council's operational buildings, for the larger properties we are required each year, by law, to produce a Display Energy Certificate (DEC), which provides a benchmark of how much energy they use. The DEC ratings for applicable buildings for 2013-14 are shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: DEC ratings for Council—owned buildings

Building	DEC rating (score given in brackets)*
Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre	C (54)
Royal Spa Centre	B (43)
Town Hall	D (78)
Pump Rooms	E (116)
Abbey Fields Swimming Pool	B (40)
St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre	C (53)
Jephson Gardens Temperate House	E (182)
Riverside House	D (85)
Castle Farm Sports Centre	B (48)

* Note that a lower score represents a better performance

As the data show, performance varies greatly between the buildings, as do the opportunities for improvement. The future of the stock is currently under consideration, and options for potential future energy efficiency improvements and reducing running costs will be a key consideration in reaching decisions.

In addition to physical improvements, an important aspect of energy efficiency is behaviour change, which can result in significant reductions in energy use. A series of after-hours site walk-rounds of Riverside House conducted in September 2014 revealed that opportunities exist to make improvements in this area. Energy use was found to be poorly controlled, with a large number of lights, monitors and other equipment being left on after staff had left for the day. Also, a significant number of plug-in heaters were found, along with several portable air-conditioning units and numerous fans. In many cases room layout was poor, with radiators being fully or partially blocked by desks and book cases, and blinds being closed (despite an absence of direct sunlight) resulting in the use of artificial lighting when it was not needed. Also, fridges in kitchen areas are mainly old, inefficient models and the heat exchangers are not regularly cleaned, which will increase their running costs. Low- and no-cost energy

¹¹ ECO is a legal requirement on energy suppliers to achieve specified domestic carbon dioxide emissions reductions by providing energy efficiency measures such as replacement boilers and loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation to householders. Some of the funding is targeted at specific geographical areas or particular low income / vulnerable groups, with another elements of it is available more generally

efficiency measures can typically reduce a building's energy costs by at least 10%, often more. In 2013-14, the Council spent approximately £95,000 on utilities to run Riverside House.

Renewable and low-carbon energy

Studies carried out on behalf of the Council by Camco¹² and Encraft¹³ indicate that there are a wide range of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies that are suitable for installation within the District. The research conducted by Encraft suggests that 527MW of renewable and low-carbon energy (heat and electricity) could theoretically be installed, with over 94MW realistically deployable by 2026. This would result in a reduction of 110,700 tonnes in CO₂ emissions, and would also represent a significant investment potential.

Solar photovoltaics (PV)

According to the latest Department of Energy and Climate Change statistics¹⁴, there are 1,225 domestic solar photovoltaic systems in the District for which the Feed-in Tariff¹⁵ is being paid, with a total installed capacity of 3.88MW, together with 40 non-domestic systems (total capacity 0.70MW). There is also a large (2MW) rooftop array at the Wolseley headquarters, plus a solar farm (4.1MW) currently under construction at Brickyard Barn in Bishops Tachbrook, with a further 4.3 MW solar farm, also in Bishops Tachbrook, currently in Planning.

Encraft estimates that around 28% of the District's housing stock (approximately 17,000 properties) is theoretically suitable for a roof-mounted solar PV or solar thermal system. Approximately 25.7MW of PV could be installed on the roofs of commercial buildings.

These findings are summarised in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4: Current and potential solar PV capacity in Warwick District

Type of PV system	Current number of installations (September 2014) (MW)	Current installed capacity (September 2014) (MW)	Theoretical capacity
Domestic rooftop	1,225	3.88	17,000 systems (solar PV or solar thermal)
Commercial rooftop	40	2.70	25.7MW
Solar farm	1 (in progress)	4.1 (in progress)	(8.4MW)

¹² Camco, 2010. *Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study*

¹³ Encraft, 2012. *Low Carbon Action Plan Evidence Base Annex IV – Lo a and Zero Carbon Technologies*

¹⁴ DECC, 2014. *Sub-national Feed-in Tariff Statistics, September 2014*

¹⁵ The Feed-in-Tariff scheme (FITs) is an environmental programme introduced by the Government in 2010 to promote the use of small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies. If a householder, community or business has an eligible installation, FITs pays them a tariff for the electricity they generate and a tariff for the electricity they export back to the grid. Prior to the introduction of the Feed-in Tariff there were very few small-scale renewable energy systems installed within the District, so the data given here represent the large majority of the systems in place

Wind energy

Only 1 small-scale system with a capacity of 6kW is currently registered to receive the Feed-in Tariff. There are no large turbines in the District. According to Encraft estimates, there are a sufficient number of suitable rural locations to install small- and medium-scale wind turbines with a total capacity of 48MW, with 4.8MW realistically deployable by 2026.

Hydro electricity

There are currently no hydro schemes within the District. Due to the complexities of the permitting regime and the limited number of locations suitable for hydro, the realistic potential is small, estimated by Encraft at 0.08MW for the period 2011-2026.

Renewable and low-carbon heat technologies – biomass, heat pumps (water, air and ground source), solar thermal, biogas/biomethane

Renewable and low-carbon heat technologies are particularly suitable for properties that are off the gas grid, because for these properties fuel costs are usually significantly higher than for grid-connected properties. In Warwick District, some 13% of dwellings are off-grid, representing approximately 7,800 in total.

Information about how much renewable and low-carbon heat-generating capacity is currently installed in the District is limited. According to data published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change¹⁶, there are currently 9 non-domestic installations in the District receiving Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments¹⁷, with a combined capacity of 2.2MW. There are also 61 domestic properties that have received RHI payments to date, covering biomass boilers, heat pumps and solar thermal equipment.

Encraft estimates that at least 21.8MW of renewable and low-carbon heat technologies are realistically deployable across the District up until 2026.

Council's own estate

The Council has installed a number of solar PV arrays and biomass boilers for its housing stock, and has recently embarked upon a programme of converting several buildings with communal heating into biomass-fuelled systems. In the past, consideration has been given to installing hydro turbines at Jephson Gardens and Princes Drive, and to adding a solar array to the roof of the Spa Centre. The proposals were not progressed, mainly due to technical and financial uncertainties that were relevant at the time. However, opportunities for renewable and low-carbon energy still exist, for example as part of the proposed sports centre refurbishments and the new office headquarters. Consideration is also being given to the potential for district heating¹⁸ within the urban areas of Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth and Whitnash.

¹⁶ DECC, 2014. *RHI and RHPP Deployment Data: October 2014*

¹⁷ The Renewable Heat Incentive is a Government scheme that provides financial support to non-domestic renewable heat generators and producers of biomethane.

¹⁸ District heat networks supply heat from a central source directly to homes and businesses through a network of pipes carrying hot water. This means that individual homes and business do not need to generate their own heat on site.

Climate change adaptation

The earth's climate is changing, and projections indicate that, regardless of what actions are taken now and in the future to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, weather patterns will continue to change over the coming decades as a result of historic emissions. We therefore need to take actions to enable us to adapt to these changing climatic conditions.

Climate change adaptation is now high on the central government agenda, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) having recently published a national Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Programme. The adaptation programme contains the following vision statement:

“Local Government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.”

According to UK Climate Projections (UKCP09), in the West Midlands region summer temperatures are likely to increase by 1.5°C compared to those in pre-industrial times by the end of the current decade, and by as much as 3.7°C by 2080. Unless we are able to adapt, this will result in adverse impacts on human health, habitats and biodiversity, food security, and infrastructure. Along with increasing temperatures, we will see reduced summer rainfall, with projections indicating a 20% reduction by 2080. Summer droughts are therefore likely to occur much more frequently. Winters, on the other hand, are likely to be warmer and wetter, with rainfall predicted to increase by 5% by 2020 and 18% by 2080. Rainfall events are also likely to become more intense, resulting in more frequent flooding and storm damage, with areas already vulnerable becoming more so if interventions are not made.

The impacts of climate change are already being felt in the District, and have led to significant disruption and costs in dealing with emergencies and repairing the damage. Despite implementation of a number of recent alleviation schemes, river flooding is still a major cause of concern. Historically, rainfall events of sufficient severity to cause widespread flooding have occurred approximately every two or three decades, but the frequency of such storms is steadily increasing and they are now occurring at a frequency of every ten years or less, with major events recorded in 1998 and 2007, together with a near miss in 2012. The District also experienced heat waves in 2003 and 2006, gales in 2005, and cold snaps in 2009 and 2010.

The Council recognises that climate change poses a threat to its services, and includes it the organisation's Significant Business Risk Register. A study on climate change adaptation was carried out on behalf of the Council in 2010/11¹⁹, which incorporated a climate change adaptation risk assessment covering all service areas. The risk assessment concluded that Health and Community Protection, and Housing and Property are the service areas most likely to be seriously impacted by climate change, as a result of increased service demand from the wider community, and damage to buildings and structures resulting from extreme weather events. However, the impacts of climate change will be felt across all service areas, and robust plans are needed in order to mitigate the risks.

¹⁹ URSUS Consulting, 2011. *Final Report to Warwick District Council. Warwick District Council Climate Change Adaptation Study. February 2011*

Fuel poverty

Despite Warwick District's relative affluence, some 6,6675 households – or 11.6%% of the total – in the District live in fuel poverty²⁰, making it a serious issue and, with rising fuel costs, one which without concerted effort is likely to become much more pronounced in the future.

The Council works in partnership with other agencies across the District and beyond on a variety of initiatives aimed at reducing fuel poverty, including the Warm and Well in Warwickshire project, led by Public Health Warwickshire and with a focus on improving health outcomes by reducing fuel poverty, and the South Warwickshire Affordable Warmth group. In the autumn of 2014 a collective energy tariff-switching campaign was run by the Council, which resulted in average savings of £221 per participating household.

Staff travel

During the 2013-14 financial year Warwick District Council staff travelled 273,000 miles on business, and travel-related carbon dioxide emissions were responsible for just under 10% of our total carbon footprint. In terms of staff commuting, a travel survey carried out in November / December 2013 revealed that 88% of staff usually travel to work by car (79% as the sole occupant and 9% as car sharers), despite the fact that 46% of employees live within 5 miles and 66% live within 10 miles of their place of work.

Other aspects of sustainability are either not covered in this strategy or are given less emphasis than the issues discussed above. This is because they are issues over which the Council has little influence and/or because they are addressed (mainly) through other means. These aspects include:

- **Waste**, addressed primarily through Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy²¹;
- **Air quality**, covered by the Warwick District Air Quality Action Plan²²;
- **Water quality**, dealt with primarily by other agencies, for example the Environment Agency and DEFRA by means of river basin management plans. Warwick District is covered by the Severn River Basin Plan²³;
- **Transport**, addressed by the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan²⁴ and the emerging Warwick and Leamington Sustainable Transport Strategy; and,
- **Biodiversity**, covered by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan²⁵ and, at the District level, by the Green Space Strategy²⁶ and management plans covering specific sites, for example Jephson Gardens²⁷ and Oakley Wood²⁸.

²⁰ Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2014. *2012 sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator*. A household is deemed to be in fuel poverty if it has required fuel costs that are above the national median level and, where that amount to be spent, the household would be left with an official income below the poverty line.

²¹ Warwickshire Waste Partnership, 2013. *Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy*. Adopted October 2005, Updated December 2013

²² Warwick District Council, 2008. *Warwick District Air Quality Action Plan 2008*.

²³ Department for Environment and Rural Affairs & Environment Agency, 2009. *Water for life and livelihoods. River Basin Management Plan for Severn River Basin District*

²⁴ Warwickshire County Council, 2011. *Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026*

²⁵ Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Partnership, 2014. *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan*

²⁶ Warwick District Council, 2012. *Green Space Strategy for Warwick District 2012-2026*

²⁷ Warwick District Council, 2013. *Jephson Gardens and Mill Gardens Management Plan 2013-2018*

²⁸ Warwick District Council, 2009. *Woodland Management Plan 2009-2029: Oakley Wood, January 2009, updated March 2009*

3. Strategic aims and objectives

Given the size and complexity of the challenge of addressing the risks and opportunities presented by sustainability and climate change, the Council cannot act in isolation, but rather must engage and work in partnership with the wider community. Therefore, in defining this strategy, three overarching aims have been set, as follows:

1. Embed sustainability at a strategic level within the organisation;
2. Address our own impacts relating to sustainability and ensure our physical assets and operations remain resilient in the face of a changing climate; and,
3. Promote and enable sustainability and climate change resilience in the wider district.

For each of these strategic aims, a number of specific objectives have been defined, based around the priorities discussed in Section 2. These objectives are shown in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Sustainability and climate change aims and objectives

Strategic Aim 1:

Embed sustainability at a strategic level with the organisation

Objective 1.1

Ensure the Council's strategies, policies and plans address relevant issues relating to sustainability and climate change

Objective 1.2

Raise staff and Elected Member awareness of issues relating to sustainability and their respective roles in promoting it

Strategic Aim 2:

Address our own impacts relating to sustainability and ensure our physical assets and operations remain resilient in the face of a changing climate

Objective 2.1

Make our operational property holdings more efficient in the use of energy, water and other resources

Objective 2.2

Make our housing stock more energy efficient

Objective 2.3

Provide more energy from renewable and low-carbon sources

Objective 2.4

Reduce transport-related carbon dioxide emissions

Objective 2.5

Ensure sustainability is fully integrated into procurement activities

Objective 2.6

Ensure the Council's property, land holdings and services remain resilient in the face of a changing climate

Strategic Aim 3:

Promote and enable sustainability and climate change resilience in the wider district

Objective 3.1

Reduce fuel poverty in the District

Objective 3.2

Work proactively with community groups and the general public to promote and enable sustainability and climate change resilience in the District

Objective 3.3

Engage with local businesses to enable them to operate more sustainably and to create a thriving local low-carbon economy

Objective 3.4

Engage with other public bodies and educational establishments to achieve joint aims on sustainability and climate change

4. How the strategic aims and objectives will be achieved

The means by which each of these objectives will be achieved is detailed in the Action Plan presented in the Appendix to this document. The Plan will be updated on an ongoing basis, to reflect updated information and new opportunities as they arise. Targets have not been yet been set but they will be introduced, where appropriate, as options are better understood and the Plan is more fully developed.

The Plan identifies the lead officer(s) or department(s) responsible for carrying out each action. In some cases it will be necessary to set up a task and finish group in order to accomplish the action. Task and finish groups are likely to be required for, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Actions associated with Objective 2.1: Make our operational property holdings more efficient in the use of energy, water and other resources;
- Actions associated with Objective 2.4: Reduce transport-related carbon dioxide emissions; and,
- Action 3.1.4: Run a targeted campaign to increase take-up of Warm Homes Discount.

Where an action has significant budgetary implications a business case will be produced, and if the expenditure is approved it will be incorporated into the relevant Service Area Plans(s) for the appropriate year(s).

5. Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring of progress made towards meeting the aims and objectives of this strategy will be the responsibility of the Sustainability Officer, reporting through the Head of Health and Community Protection to the Senior Management Team on a half-yearly basis. The strategy will be reviewed annually and where any significant changes are made they will be reported to Executive.

Appendix I: Action Plan

Strategic Aim 1 - Embedding sustainability at a strategic level with the organisation

Objective 1.1:

Ensure the Council's strategies, policies and plans address relevant issues relating to sustainability and climate change

Measure(s):

- Proportion of strategies, policies and plans demonstrating evidence of consideration of implications for sustainability

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
1.1.1	Include a sustainability impact assessment for all major projects / policies and strategies / committee-level decisions	Relevant lead officer	Officer time	High	Ongoing (process to be put in place by 31/03/15)
1.1.2	Incorporate sustainability into revised Housing Investment Plan	Asset Manager	Officer time	High	tbc
1.1.3	Periodically review corporate risk register / emergency plans / businesses continuity plans to ensure fully take into account sustainability-related issues	Service Heads	Officer time	High	Annually by 31 st December
1.1.4	Review and update as required sustainability-related policies in proposed new Local Plan, and produce new sustainability supplementary planning document to provide guidance on how planning policies can be complied with	Planning Policy team	Officer time Document design costs	High	Review and update policies by 30/11/14 Produce SPD within 12 months of adoption of Local Plan
1.1.5	Consider signing up to Climate Local initiative	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	High	By 28/02/15

Objective 1.2:**Raise staff and Elected Member awareness of issues relating to sustainability and their respective roles in promoting it***Measure(s):*

- Number of members of staff and Elected Members receiving briefings / attending training sessions, seminars and site visits

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
1.2.1	Deliver sustainability briefings and training to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• new starters, as part of induction process;• existing staff (all), in form of e-learning packages• senior officers, at dedicated senior offices meetings• Elected Members	Sustainability Officer Training Officer	Officer time Training set-up costs - tbc	Medium	Ongoing
1.2.2	Run seminars, Q & A sessions and site visits for staff and elected members	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	Medium	Ongoing – first meeting on 23/10/14
1.2.3	Set up Sustainability section on intranet	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	Medium	By 30/06/15

Strategic Aim 2 - Addressing our own impacts and vulnerabilities

Objective 2.1:

Make our operational property holdings more efficient in the use of energy, water and other resources

Measure(s):

- Consumption of electricity (kWh), gas (KWh), LPG (m³), biomass (tonnes)
- Water consumption (m³)
- Paper consumption (reams)

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.1.1	Include identification of viable energy efficiency measures as part of planned stock review	Housing & Property	Officer time	High	By 31/03/16
2.1.2	Produce business cases for energy efficiency measures that can be implemented in advance of stock review, to include: <i>a) Riverside House:</i> review options for improving efficiency and reduce running costs of building, to incorporate no- and low-cost measures and including: server room cooling; lighting; appliances; heating and ventilation; <i>b) Oakley Wood Crematorium:</i> identify optimum usage patterns of cremators and investigate feasibility of running heat pipe to lodge <i>c) Other properties / sites:</i> assess feasibility of LED lighting upgrades and other measures <i>d) Staff behaviour change programme</i>	Energy Manager Sustainability Officer	Officer time	High	By 30/09/15
2.1.3	Identify suitable water efficiency measures across the Council's entire operational building stock and land holdings; produce business case for expenditure, as appropriate	Energy Manager	Officer time	High	31/03/2015
2.1.4	Identify options for reducing paper use and set reduction target; implement options	tbc	Officer time	High	Identify options and set target by 31/03/15 Achieve target by 31/03/16

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.1.5	Set minimum standards for performance of new developments / major refurbishments, including new office headquarters and leisure centre redevelopment	Relevant Project Manager	Officer time	High	Ongoing
2.1.6	Improve waste segregation and recycling / reuse within operational buildings and other sites	Facilities Manager	Officer time	Medium	By 31/12/15

Objective 2.2:
Make our housing stock more energy efficient

Measure(s):

- Energy Performance Certificate / SAP²⁹ ratings
- Measured or calculated energy savings

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.2.1	Include appraisal of options for improving energy efficiency of existing Council-owned housing as part of planned stock review	Housing & Property	Officer time, with consultancy input as required	High	By 31/12/15
2.2.2	Based on findings of review, set minimum standards for energy efficiency to be achieved for whole of existing stock within stated timescale, and produce business case and plan for delivery	Housing & Property	Officer time, with potential consultancy input	High	By 31/03/16
2.2.3	Set minimum energy efficiency standards for new-build projects	Housing & Property	Officer time, with potential consultancy input	High	Ongoing
2.2.4	In advance of stock review, assess opportunities for ECO ³⁰ funding for external wall insulation projects	Housing & Property	Officer time	High	By 31/03/15

²⁹ Energy performance certificates (EPCs) provides a rating for residential and commercial buildings, showing their energy efficiency based on the performance of the building itself and its services (such as heating and lighting). EPCs are required whenever a building is built, sold or rented out. The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the method used to calculate the EPC rating.

³⁰ The Energy Company Obligation is a legal requirement on energy suppliers to achieve specified domestic carbon dioxide emissions reductions by providing energy efficiency measures such as replacement boilers and loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation to householders. Some of the funding is targeted at specific geographical areas or particular low income / vulnerable groups, while other elements of it are available more generally.

Objective 2.3:
Provide more energy from renewable and low-carbon sources

Measure(s):

- Installed capacity of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.3.1	Carry out heat mapping and energy master-planning to identify opportunities for district heating networks ³¹	Sustainability Officer	Officer time plus £15k (33% matched funding) – as agreed	High	By 30/04/15
2.3.2	Look into other options for investing in larger-scale renewable energy scheme(s)	Sustainability Officer	Officer time, plus potential future feasibility study costs	Medium	By 30/06/15
2.3.3	Continue with programme of upgrading of flats / care facilities to incorporate communal biomass boilers	Energy Manager	Budget allocated (Housing)	High	Ongoing
2.3.4	Re-examine business case for solar photovoltaics on Spa Centre	Sustainability Officer	Officer time, plus potential future feasibility study costs	Medium	By 31/03/15
2.3.5	Re-evaluate business case for hydropower scheme at Jephson Gardens & Princes Drive	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	Low	By 31/12/15
2.3.6	Consider full range of options for renewable and low-carbon energy at sports centres as part of upgrades	Sports and Leisure	Officer time plus consultancy input	High	tbc
2.3.7	Consider other options for installing renewable and low-carbon energy technologies	Sustainability Officer	Officer time, plus potential future feasibility study costs	Medium	By 31/12/15

³¹ District heat networks supply heat from a central source directly to homes and businesses through a network of pipes carrying hot water. This means that individual homes and business do not need to generate their own heat on site.

Objective 2.4
Reduce transport-related carbon dioxide emissions

Measure(s):

- Carbon dioxide emissions

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.4.1	Introduce package of measures to encourage staff to use alternative modes of transport to the car, including salary sacrifice scheme for cycle purchase, upgrading of shower and bike storage facilities, provision of free trial bus passes, cycle business mileage rate, on-site cycle repair days	Sustainability Officer Payroll	Officer time plus costs of measures	High	Launch event by 30/04/15 Actions ongoing thereafter
2.4.2	Introduce staff travel policy and set up travel management system	Human Resources Procurement	Officer time Potential cost savings (to be identified)	Medium	By 31/03/16
2.4.3	Reconsider green travel options as part of office relocation project	Project Coordinator	Officer time (plus potential resource implications to implement measures)	Medium	Dependent on relocation project timescales
2.4.4	Re-assess business case for introduction of pool cars (including electric vehicles) and bicycles	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	High	By 31/03/15

Objective 2.5**Ensure sustainability is fully integrated into procurement activities***Measure(s):*

- tbc

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.5.1	Identify key procurement activities and for each assess main sustainability issues to be addressed	Procurement	Officer time	High	By 31/06/15
2.5.2	Identify and document appropriate procurement criteria for key procurement activities	Procurement	Officer time	High	By 30/09/15
2.5.3	For ongoing contracts, set up process for reviewing sustainability requirements as existing contracts are due for renewal	Procurement	Officer time	High	Ongoing, with process to be established by 31/06/15

Objective 2.6**Ensure the Council's property, land holdings and services remain resilient in the face of a changing climate***Measure(s):*

- Water consumption (m³)
- Adaptation measures incorporated (number and type)

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
2.6.1	Ensure climate change adaptability is fully taken into account in making decisions on future of existing building stock and location of new offices / housing stock	Project Coordinators Housing and Property Sustainability Officer	Officer time, other resources tbc (case-dependent)	High	Ongoing
2.6.2	As part of the planned housing stock review, examine options for enhanced water efficiency and, where appropriate, set minimum water efficiency standards for existing and new housing stock	Housing and Property	Officer time, other resources tbc	High	By 31/03/15
2.6.3	Set minimum water efficiency standards to be applied to new and refurbished operational buildings (see also item 2.1.3)	Housing and Property, with input from Sustainability Officer	Officer time, other resources tbc	High	By 30/09/15
2.6.4	As part of housing stock review process, identify those properties that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and appropriate adaptation measures. Incorporate these measures into refurbishment programmes	Housing and Property, with input from Sustainability Officer	Officer time, other resources tbc	High	By 31/03/16
2.6.5	Ensure appropriate flood resilience measures are incorporated into leisure centre upgrades and, if appropriate, new headquarters	Sports and Leisure Project Coordinators	Officer time, other resources (tbc)	High	tbc

Strategic Aim 3 – Promoting and enabling sustainability and climate change resilience in the wider district

Objective 3.1

Reduce fuel poverty in the District

Measure(s):

- Number of households in fuel poverty

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
3.1.1	Provide advice on domestic energy-related issues to general public (targeted at most vulnerable residents), via advice clinics, home visits, helpline, website and printed literature	Sustainability Officer	Officer time, plus cost of Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Act on Energy (approx £9k pa)	High	Ongoing (SLA renewed annually in April)
3.1.2	Provide energy efficiency information and advice to WDC tenants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include leaflets in new tenant sign-up packs • via newsletters, events and home visits 	Sustainability Officer Sustaining Tenancies team	Officer time	High	Ongoing
3.1.3	Provide training on domestic energy efficiency for frontline staff	Sustainability Officer	Officer time, Act on Energy costs (through SLA)	High	Ongoing
3.1.4	Run targeted campaign to increase take-up of Warm Homes Discount	Sustainability Officer Financial Inclusion team	Officer time, plus campaign costs (£4k) – to be paid for via Public Health grant	High	By 31/03/15
3.1.5	For private rented sector, examine options for enhanced usage of Housing Health and Safety Rating System as a means of enforcement in cases where extreme cold are identified	Private Sector Housing	Officer time; other resources (potentially purchase of software)	Medium	By 30/09/15

Objective 3.2

Work proactively with community groups and the general public to promote and enable sustainability and climate change resilience in the District

Measure(s):

- Number of community groups and members of public engaged with
- Number of renewable energy projects supported and installed capacity of renewable energy

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
3.2.1	Set up network of community groups with an interest in sustainability, produce regular email updates and hold annual sustainability forum	Sustainability Officer	Officer time plus costs to host forum (tbc)	Low	By 31/12/15
3.2.2	Include sustainability criteria for deciding on allocation of small grant schemes	tbc	Officer time	Low	By 30/09/15
3.2.3	Investigate opportunities for setting up community renewable energy schemes	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	Medium	By 30/08/15
3.2.4	Investigate setting up a dedicated web-based sustainability hub to engage local residents on issues relating to sustainable lifestyles	Sustainability Officer	Officer time, plus website set-up and hosting costs (tbc – funding options to be investigated)	Medium	By 30/09/15
3.2.5	Produce district-level heat wave and cold weather plans	Environmental Sustainability team	Officer time	Medium	By 31/03/16
3.2.6	Examine options for increasing local food growing	Sustainability Officer Green Space Team	Officer time	Medium	By 31/12/15

Objective 3.3**Engage with local businesses to enable them to operate more sustainably and to create a thriving local low-carbon economy***Measure(s):*

- Number of local businesses engaged with

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
3.3.1	Work with BID Leamington to improve waste recycling by town centre businesses	Economic Regeneration & Development Manager Sustainability Officer	Officer time	Medium	By 30/09/15
3.3.2	Investigate setting up a district-based green Business club	Sustainability Officer	Officer time (potential funding available through CWLEP)	Medium	By 30/06/15
3.3.3	Examine opportunities to link Council activity with corporate social responsibility programmes	Sustainability Officer	Officer time	Medium	By 30/12/15

Objective 3.4

Engage with other public bodies and educational establishments to achieve joint aims on sustainability and climate change

Measure(s):

- Numbers of interventions made by 'Warm and Well' partnership
- Flood prevention / response initiatives successfully implemented
- Additions made to cycle network (or enhancements to existing network)

Action plan:

Ref	Action	Responsibility	Resource implications	Priority	Timescale
3.4.1	Work proactively with Warwickshire County Council on the development and delivery of a Flood Risk Management Strategy for the District	Environmental Sustainability team	Officer time Other resources (tbc)	High	tbc
3.4.2	Collaborate with Warwickshire County Council and other organisations on sustainable transport-related issues, including the delivery of the Warwick and Leamington Sustainable Transport Strategy, the further development of local cycle networks, and the setting up of community car-share clubs and vehicle charging infrastructure	Environmental Sustainability team	Officer time Other resources (tbc)	High	Ongoing
3.4.3	Work with Public Health Warwickshire, Act on Energy, and other local authorities & agencies in the sub-region to deliver the outcomes of the 'Warm and Well' partnership	Sustainability Officer Health and Wellbeing Lead Financial Inclusion team	Officer time	High	By 31/03/16
3.4.4	Continue to collaborate with Warwick University on end-of-term collections of wastes from student households in Leamington	Neighbourhood Services	Officer time	High	Ongoing