

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 April 2024

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: Climate Change Strategy Annual Update

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the fourth annual update to Council on the progress of delivering the actions and commitments in East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is recommended to note the progress made in decarbonising the Council's services and operations and contributing to a low carbon East Lothian. Definitions of key terms used in this report can be found in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Council is recommended to note the key projects & achievements and key risks set out in this report, delivered by members of the Climate Change Planning and Monitoring Group.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Lothian Council's Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025 was approved by Cabinet in January 2020. Cabinet also approved the commitments to review and update the Strategy annually as further national legislative and policy changes occur, to review and update the Action Plan annually, and to seek approval from Cabinet for these revisions and updates on an annual basis.
- 3.2 In addition to the commitments set out in the Climate Change Strategy, the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 puts statutory duties on the Council to: contribute to the delivery of carbon emissions reduction targets, help deliver climate change adaptation, and act sustainably. East Lothian Council reports on these duties annually to the Scottish Government through a 'Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report'. The most recent

report can be found in the East Lothian Council Members' Library Service.¹

Key National and International Climate Reports

3.3 In June 2023, the Scottish Government published three discussion papers on the *Just Transition* towards net zero in Scotland. The focus of the three just transition papers reflect the three highest emitting sectors in Scotland, which are:

- land use and agriculture²
- built environment and construction sector³
- transport sector⁴

Local authorities, including East Lothian Council, have been engaged in the publication of the discussion papers. A draft of all three just transition plans will be published in 2024. These will set a route map for how Scotland decarbonises these sectors in a just and fair way. Local authorities will need to consider their role in contributing to these plans and support Scotland in its journey to net zero.

3.4 In November 2023, the UK Climate Change Committee published an independent assessment of the progress in adapting to climate change in Scotland.⁵ The assessment is based on the second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP2). The key takeaways from the report are listed below. The third Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) is out for consultation until 24 April and is due to be published later in 2024.

- The delivery and implementation of climate change adaptation measures in Scotland are slow. Only 1 of 33 outcomes are making good progress. The rest are making insufficient progress, mixed progress, or is there is insufficient data to evaluate progress.
- For SNAP3 to be effective, it must link activities with outcomes, have clear ownership of delivery, and address the lack of a monitoring and evaluation system.
- Public and private investment needs to be unlocked to ensure successful deliver of adaptation.

¹ East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2022/23

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17176/members_library_service]

² Scottish Government (2023). Just transition in land use and agriculture: a discussion paper. 20th June

[<https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-land-use-agriculture-discussion-paper/>]

³ Scottish Government (2023). Just transition for the built environment and construction sector: a

discussion paper. 20th June. [[https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-built-environment-](https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-built-environment-construction-sector-discussion-paper/)

[construction-sector-discussion-paper/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-built-environment-construction-sector-discussion-paper/)]

⁴ Scottish Government (2023). Just transition for the transport sector: a discussion paper. [20th June.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/transition-transport-sector-discussion-paper/>]

⁵ UK CCC (2023). Adapting to climate change: Progress in Scotland. 21st November.

[<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/adapting-to-climate-change-progress-in-scotland/#key-messages>]

- Adaptation needs to be fully integrated across objectives on decarbonisation, health and nature.

The Council's Emissions

3.5 East Lothian Council's emissions in 2022/23 were counted to 13,990tCO₂e. This is a reduction of 10.62% compared to the 15,653 tCO₂e emissions reported in 2020/21.⁶

3.6 See Figure 1 for an overview of the Council's greenhouse gas emissions over time, demonstrating success in achieving emissions reduction. Red bars indicate when staff commuting emissions have been included in the annual footprint, with the direct comparison with other years included alongside in blue. In all future years, commuting patterns will be captured in the data presented, as this represents a more accurate picture of the Council's overall emissions total.

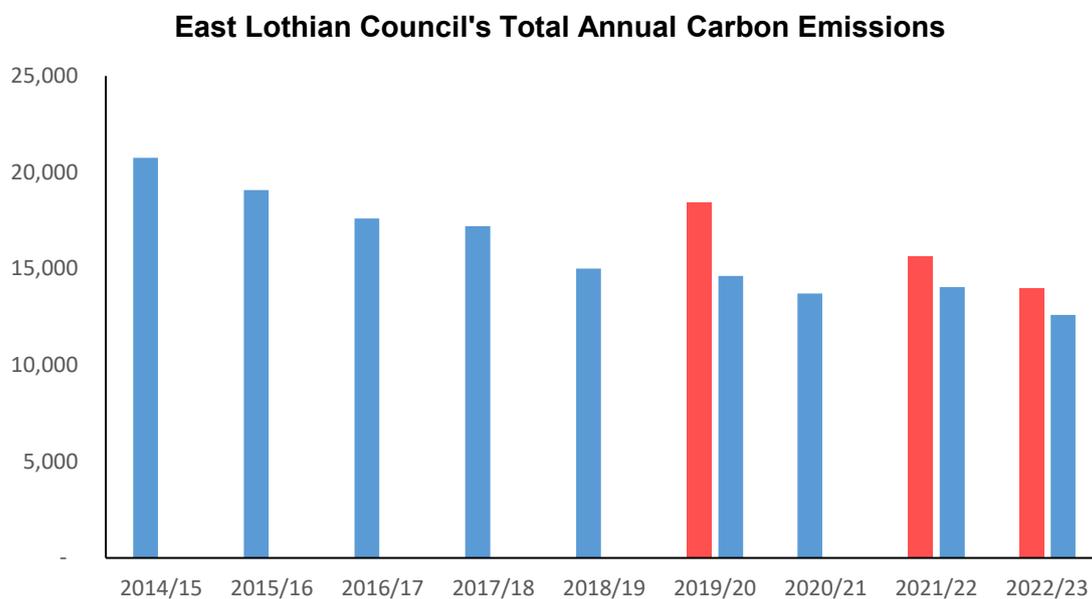


Figure 1: East Lothian Council's annual total greenhouse gas emissions, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Y-axis = tCO₂e, x-axis = financial year, red bars = staff commuting emissions included in the Council's carbon footprint and reported to the Scottish Government, blue bars = staff commuting emissions excluded.

Embedding Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the Council

3.7 The new East Lothian Council Plan (2022-2027) includes 'Respond to the Climate Emergency' as one of its three overarching objectives. The Council Plan sets out a strategic framework for how the Council will respond to challenges.

3.8 East Lothian Council's Policy and Performance Review Committee approved the draft of the 2022-2027 Top 50 Council Plan Indicators, in

⁶ East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2022/23
[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17176/members_library_service]

which three new indicators to tackle the climate emergency have been proposed. These indicators align with the Council's statutory Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (Mitigation, Adaptation and Act Sustainably) in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and are:

- East Lothian Council's corporate annual carbon emissions (tCO₂e) reported through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting – Mitigation, contributing to the delivery of the national net zero targets;
- East Lothian Council's score on Adaptation Scotland's Capability Framework Benchmarking Assessment – Adaptation, supporting delivery of Scotland's climate change adaptation programme;
- Number of staff successfully undertaking the Carbon Literacy Training programme and being certified as Carbon Literate – Act Sustainably.

Key Projects & Achievements 2022/23 Addressing Climate Change

- 3.9 The list below indicates a broad range of key projects carried out by East Lothian Council that highlight some of the achievements in relation to its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. These cover a wide range of Council functions from governance to schools, communities, energy efficiency and heating, infrastructure, biodiversity, and procurement.
- 3.10 The Council has published its Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy. It commits to achieve zero pipeline emissions from the ELC fleet in 2035 and plays a key role in the Council's contribution to reduce emissions from transport.
- 3.11 The new Wallyford Learning Campus has been completed, designed to meet an operational energy target within Band A of the SFT funding criteria (67-83kwh/m²/annum). The performance of the building as designed equates to a carbon emissions rate (kgCO₂/m²) of 42% less than the minimum building regulation requirement.
- 3.12 91 staff members commenced Carbon Literacy Training this year. The Services who have had most of their staff trained are Procurement and Planning.
- 3.13 3,372 pupils in East Lothian Schools have engaged with Bikeability's Level 1 and Level 2 training.
- 3.14 100% of East Lothian's Primary Schools engaged with the programmes delivered by the Outdoor Learning Services in 2022/23. These programmes help pupils to connect with nature and increase their confidence in active travel.
- 3.15 The Council launched its 'Net Zero for Business' website. It includes local case studies of businesses decarbonising their activities to help other local businesses do the same.

- 3.16 Kerbside collections saw an increase of 17.5% collected recyclable materials this year compared to 2019/2020.
- 3.17 The Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan (2022-2028) was published in January 2023. The plan identifies 3 flood studies and 5 surface water management plans to be undertaken in East Lothian to strengthen its response to climate change adaptation.
- 3.18 The Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project was completed by the Council's Amenity Services in 2023. The project has been key in connecting nature networks and improving biodiversity in the county to help tackling the nature emergency.

Key Risks Delivering the Climate Change Strategy Actions

- 3.19 The list below indicates the key risks of successfully delivering the actions set out in the Council's Climate Change Strategy. These risks have been submitted by the Council different Service Areas in preparation of this paper.
- 3.20 The Council is operating under financial constraints and is facing the challenge of balancing solutions in environmental sustainability with cost consideration across all areas of operation. There is a recurring theme of a huge challenge, requiring costly interventions to meet the target, but limited funding available for structural change. The difficulty is Scotland-wide and not specific to East Lothian.
- 3.21 East Lothian's population is rapidly growing, and new infrastructure, developments, and services will be required to meet the demand of this growth. It makes the Council's journey towards net zero more challenging, as decarbonisation needs to keep pace with this growth. Mitigation measures are in place. These include a new benchmark of internal floor space in the Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report to the Scottish Government and ongoing Asset Review of Council estate.
- 3.22 There have been strides in decarbonising transport, such as a near-trebling of the mileage travelled by electric fleet vehicles. However, we will struggle to increase the number of fleet vehicles that are zero-emissions due to financial and insurance pressures. The 'Green Travel Plan' has missed its target date of 2023 and will now be a 'Staff Travel Plan' due to be completed this year. There has also been no progress on low-carbon transport for rural communities, including community transport.
- 3.23 The Scottish Government is setting ambitious targets to decarbonise all publicly owned buildings to meet net zero heating emissions requirements by 2038 and achieve zero pipeline emissions from Council fleet by 2035. The scale of funding required to achieve these targets is currently not available at a local or national level. While decarbonising buildings and transport are vital for the Council to achieve its net zero target and

contribute to Scotland's wider net zero targets, current financial constraints place these targets at risk.

Conclusion

- 3.24 The Council is making good progress on its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. However, the Council faces a challenge to balance its sustainability goals with financial constraints. It will also be difficult to make all of East Lothian climate resilient and zero emissions when a rising population and new developments necessitate greater Council activity. This has further implications on successfully meeting all seven outcomes set out in the Climate Change Strategy (Appendix 2). East Lothian's overall carbon footprint may increase as the new facilities come on stream, despite having effective measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Our climate targets must be reached in absolute, not relative terms, but efforts to decarbonise and adapt our estates, operations, and services must be seen in the context of these circumstances.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are a number of policy implications arising from this report that will be considered and incorporated in future local and regional policy development work in due course. The next Council Climate Change Strategy, which will run from 2025-2030, will guide how the Council addresses these implications.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and where negative impacts have been identified, mitigating actions have been put in place.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – The priority areas and measures that have allowed the Council to address climate change mitigation and adaptation to date are embedded within service budgets currently. However, meeting the net zero target will become more and more challenging. It is clear from the risks identified in this report that service areas across the Council face challenges in being able to undertake all the actions that will be necessary to meet the climate change target. It should be noted that climate change is a rapidly moving area of legislative and policy context and the Council will continue to work closely with the Scottish Government to shape and influence, as well as respond to, national ambitions to ensure that the necessary measures, powers, and resources are in place to deliver a just transition to net zero.

6.2 Personnel – None

6.3 Other – None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 East Lothian Council’s Climate Change Strategy 2020–2025
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/13283/climate_change_strategy_2020-25

7.2 Members’ Library Service report 126/23 East Lothian Council – Public Sector Climate Change Reporting 2022/23
https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17176/members_library_service

7.3 Appendix 1: Glossary

7.4 Appendix 2: The Seven Outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy

7.5 Appendix 3: Climate Change Strategy Action Plan annual update

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DATE	04/04/2024

Appendix 1: Glossary

Climate Change Adaptation: Our climate is changing and Met Office projects more extreme weather, warmer/dryer summer, and wetter winters. Adaptation refers to adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. According to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, local authorities must contribute to Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Climate Change Mitigation: Actions to avoid/limit greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and/or removal of these from the atmosphere. According to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, local authorities must contribute to climate change mitigation.

Just Transition: For the Scottish Government a just transition is both the outcome – a fairer, greener future for all – and the process that must be undertaken in partnership with those impacted by the transition to net zero. It supports a net zero and climate resilient economy in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.

Net Zero: The state where the emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out through e.g. planting trees, restoring peatlands and carbon capture storage, equals zero.

Scope 1 Emissions: direct emissions from sources owned or operated by the Council, such as gas and fleet.

Scope 2 Emissions: indirect emissions from the consumption of purchased electricity, steam or power generated outwith the Council, such as grid electricity generation.

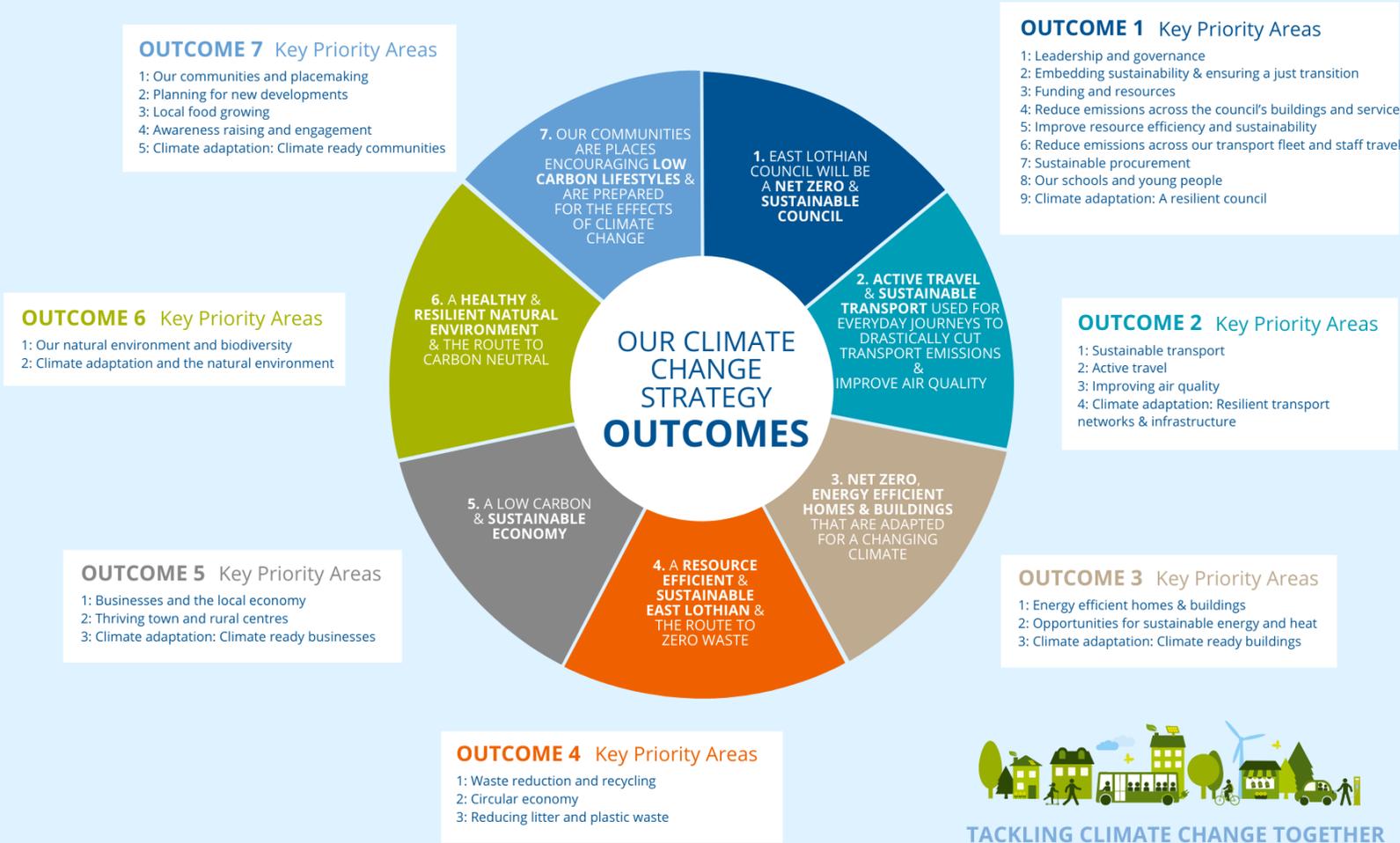
Scope 3 Emissions: indirect emissions that are a consequence of the operations or services of the Council, such as waste management and business mileage. Scope 3 Emissions also include procurement and staff commuting emissions. These emissions tend to be more difficult to measure. One way to identify procurement Scope 3 emissions is to investigate the Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from the suppliers we procure from.

Appendix 2: The Seven Outcomes of the Climate Change Strategy



CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Working together in East Lothian to tackle climate change



Appendix 3: Climate Change Strategy Action Plan annual update

Key to 'Tracker':

Green = action progressing / on track;

Amber = progress with action still underway but slowed or delayed;

Red = 2023 action not progressing / problem with delivery of action;

No Colour = target date not 2023

Ref	Action	Relevant Strategy / Plan	Lead Person / Service	Indicator	Baseline	Target (where applicable)	Target date	UPDATE: DECEMBER 2023	Tracker	Notes
Outcome 1: East Lothian Council will be a Net Zero and Sustainable Council										
Key Priority Area 1: Leadership and Governance										
1.1a	Work with all Council Service Areas and key partners including the Scottish Government to improve the integrity of our emissions data and reporting mechanisms, and reduce carbon emissions annually, to reach Net Zero by 2045 at the latest	Climate Change Strategy; ELC Climate Change Reporting	Chief Executive; CCPMG; partners including Scottish Government	Annual Climate Change Reporting to the Scottish Government: East Lothian Council's total annual corporate emissions	44,034 tCO ₂ e in 2007/08	Continue to reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually	Ongoing. The Council's Climate Change Planning & Monitoring Group continues to drive this forward across council service areas. We are getting a clearer picture of the Council's carbon footprint by adding measures such as staff commuting emissions and getting more detailed carbon data on mileage from grey fleet. In 2022/23, the ELC's corporate emissions was estimate to 13,990.19 tCO ₂ e.		
1.1b	Embed our aims to tackle the Climate Emergency and to achieve emission reductions within our Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (East Lothian Plan)	Council Plan; East Lothian Plan	Policy Team; SECCO	Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (East Lothian Plan)	Outcomes under East Lothian Plan 2017–2027	Key targets within the Council Plan	2022	The East Lothian Plan 2022-2027 includes 'Responding to the climate emergency' as one of its three overarching objectives. Three new Top 50 Indicators have also been added which helps assess the Council's response to the statutory duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009: to mitigate, adapt and act sustainably. Mitigation are monitored through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report to the Scottish Government, adaptation by an annual workshop using the Capability Framework by Adaptation Scotland, acting sustainably by the number of staff trained and certified through the Carbon Literacy Project.		
1.1c	Annual reporting on East Lothian's overall Per Capita Carbon Emissions, within the scope of local authorities	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO; CCPMG	Data published annually by the UK Government Department of Energy and Climate Change (tCO ₂ e) for all	Baseline data 5.2 tCO ₂ e (2016/17)	Decreasing annual per capita carbon emissions	Annually	4.7 tCO ₂ e reported for calendar year 2021 (most recent data available). Source: UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005-2021 (published 6th July 2023)		

				UK local authority areas					
1.1d	Staff awareness and engagement: Reinstate the promotional campaign 'CRAW' ('Conserve Resources at Work'), or similar, to raise awareness amongst staff – including promotional measures and publicity (articles and updates in staff newsletter 'Inform')	Climate Change Strategy	CCPMG			Increased awareness	2020 / ongoing	Staff awareness raised through delivering the Carbon Literacy Programme in the Council (in 2023, 91 staff members started their training and 59 have so far received their certificates). Engagement presentation on climate change is delivered quarterly through 'Welcome to the Council', hosted by the Organisational Development Service. An E-Learning on the basics of climate change is now available for all staff in LearnPro. The internal staff letter 'Inform' published green tips and stories regularly through its Green Corner function.	
1.1e	Ensure that training in carbon efficiency behaviours is provided to all new Council employees via the staff Induction process, to instil the low carbon culture of East Lothian Council	Staff Induction process	Corporate Policy & Improvement; SECCO	Introduction of Induction training in carbon efficiency behaviours for all new staff		Induction training in carbon efficiency behaviours is in place	2022	Training in carbon efficient behaviour is delivered through the Council's Carbon Literacy Programme (62 staff members certified in 2023), E-Learning in the climate emergency on LearnPro, and regular engagement presentations as part of the staff induction process 'Welcome to the Council'.	
1.1f	Inclusion of a new mandatory E-Learning module on reducing your carbon footprint, for all Council employees; explore options to make this available to community / third sector organisations, via the wider E-Learning platform		Corporate Policy & Improvement; SECCO	Production of E-Learning module on reducing your carbon footprint		E-Learning module on reducing your carbon footprint in place	2022	An E-Learning module on the climate emergency has been created and is available on LearnPro. The training is currently only voluntary and not mandatory. Next step would be to explore how the E-Learning can be mandatory as part of the induction process.	
1.1g	Work with our partner organisations to encourage them to take urgent action to reduce their own carbon footprint; add this requirement to the terms and conditions associated with grants awarded by the Council, Area Partnerships, procurement contracts etc.	Climate Change Strategy	CCPMG				2020 / ongoing	Climate change is addressed in several key strategies to influence our partner organisations to drive down their footprint. For example, in the Council's Procurement Strategy, one of the five core focus areas of the Strategy is to 'Contribute to the Council's Net Zero climate change targets'; in the East Lothian Council Plan, one of the three overarching objectives is 'Respond to the Climate Emergency'; in the East Lothian Plan, outcome 2.2 refers to 'East Lothian people can live affordably and contribute to a thriving life in a high quality environment'; The East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 contains objectives with outcomes that help tackle the climate emergency, such as 'Promote sustainable development', 'Protect and	

								enhance the area's high quality environment and its special identity', 'Ensure adequate infrastructure capacity and an appropriate use of resources'; the East Lothian Local Housing Strategy includes Priority Outcome 5 'Fuel poverty is reduced and climate change targets exceeded'; The East Lothian Local Transport Strategy, sets an overarching of vision 'East Lothian will have well-connected; the East Lothian Poverty Plan has key actions under Priority Area 3: Having a Home, 'Increase the awareness and uptake of energy efficiency advice and improve tenant and owner understanding of energy efficiency across all tenures', 'Reduce fuel poverty'. communities with increased use of sustainable transport modes to access services and amenities'; and lastly, East Lothian Council's Sustainable Fleet Management Strategy sets the vision to '(...) provide effective fleet procurement, management, and a workshop maintenance service, with a commitment to significantly reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and to make our assets environmentally sustainable within the UK and Scottish government's timeline of key deliverables.' and aims to achieve zero tail pipe emissions from its fleet vehicles by 2035.	
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Key Priority Area 2: Embedding Sustainability and ensuring a Just Transition

1.2a	Produce an updated Integrated Impact Assessment procedure that is in line with current policies on equalities, human rights, sustainability and climate change; including by introducing 'Sustainability Tests; to embed equalities, sustainability and climate change mitigation into all Council policies and decision-making	Integrated Impact Assessment process	Corporate Policy & Improvement; SECCO	Production of an updated Integrated Impact Assessment procedure; revised IIA process to be used for all Council policies and decision-making	The current Integrated Impact Assessment	Production and adoption of an updated Integrated Impact Assessment procedure and implementation into all Council policies and decision-making	Completed	This action was completed in 2020. The revised Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) was published and is on ELC's Intranet for Service Managers to use. The IIA incorporates the specific requirement to include consideration of Climate Change and the Environment when making decisions about proposed policies and projects.	
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Key Priority Area 3: Funding and Resources

1.3a	Work with our partners including the Scottish Government to focus specific funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level	Climate Change Strategy	CCPMG; Scottish Government (SG); partner organisations	Specific funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level	N/A	Dedicated funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency at local level	Annually	Officers continue to liaise with the Scottish Government and other external partners to continue to focus specific funding, measures and resources to address the Climate Emergency locally. Valuable forums for these are SSN, LHEES Forum, and Adaptation Scotland's Benchmarking Group etc., which the Council's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer is attending regularly. The Sustainable Transport Officers Group continues to work with partner organisations including Sustrans and SEStran to improve and expand active travel and sustainable transport networks. Planning Service aims to further focus the Local Development Plan on addressing climate change with the working assumption that new development should be able to conform to the Scottish Government targets for achieving net zero by 2045 and the interim target of 75% emissions reduction by 2030.		
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Key Priority Area 4: Reduce Emissions across the Council's Buildings and Services

1.4b	Continue the programme of energy efficiency improvements and incorporation of low carbon technologies in Council owned buildings – aiming for carbon neutral buildings	Corporate Asset Management Plan; Climate Change Strategy	Property Maintenance; Engineering & Building Standards; CCPMG	Energy efficiency measures installed		Energy efficiency measures installed in all Council buildings	2020 / ongoing	1) LED lighting has been installed in office areas altered as part of the New Ways Of Working in John Muir House and Penston House. 2) LED lighting has been installed in the areas altered in recent works in Preston Lodge High School. 3) The new Wallyford Learning Campus has been completed, designed to meet an operational energy target of 67kwh/m2/annum. The performance of the building as designed equates to a carbon emissions rate (kgCO2/m2) of 42% less than the minimum building regulation requirement. The campus incorporates solar arrays. 4) The new Blindwells and Craighall Primary Schools have been progressed to Financial Close stage and are due to start on site in February 2024. The schools have been		
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								designed to meet an operational energy target of 67kwh/m2/annum. The performance of the buildings as designed equates to a carbon emissions rate (kgCO2/m2) of 46% less than the minimum building regulation requirement. 5) The new replacement Whitecraig Primary School has been progressed to Tender stage and is due to start on site in early 2024. The school has been designed to meet an operational energy target of 67kwh/m2/annum. The performance of the buildings as designed equates to a carbon emissions rate (kgCO2/m2) significantly less than the minimum building regulation requirement and significantly less than that of the existing school. 5) We have gathered over 100 notes of interest for Solar PV and battery installations and are currently awaiting signed mandates so that work can be programmed. We are continuing to install CWI and loft top ups based on information from EPC's that have been carried out. We are also looking at 2 mixed tenure blocks for EWI.	
1.4c	Continue our Asset Management and Transformation Programme of office review of operational assets and rationalisation, and the shift towards flexible, mobile working, and collaboration internally and externally, to reduce energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint. Maximise opportunities presented by digital transformation to accelerate the shift towards more flexible, mobile working.	Council Asset Strategy & Management Plan; New Ways of Working Policy; Workforce Plan	Strategic Asset & Capital Plan Management; Transformation Team	proportion of staff undertaking flexible / mobile working		Increased asset office rationalisation as per Corporate Asset Management targets; Property Asset Strategy; increased proportion of staff undertaking flexible / mobile working; and increased sharing of assets internally and with external organisations	2020 / ongoing	<p>Homeworking and Hybrid Working policies have been adopted to support staff working from home or more flexibly.</p> <p>The Asset Rationalisation project aims to reduce the council's office building requirement and reduce the council's carbon footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction work at Penston House, Macmerry, to enable 'New Ways Of Working' was completed in February 2023 and two stages of phase 1 works have been completed at John Muir House, with a further stage due for completion by April 2023. This has enabled teams to move from John Muir House, Haddington to Penston House, Macmerry, and move all teams from Randall House, Macmerry into John Muir House. In addition, teams have also been moved out of less energy efficient areas in John Muir House into refurbished areas. 	

					<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Randall House was closed, and the building handed back to the landlord, on 8 October 2023.• Design work for 'New Ways of Working' for John Muir House Phase 2 is progressing, and this to complete the facilities required for staff now based at John Muir House but also to further optimise office space and vacate less efficient areas of the John Muir House campus. Design works have also commenced on the office areas at MECLC, Musselburgh to utilise these spaces better and this will aid the further reduction of office space within the wider Council's office estate. <p>Work is also progressing on re-purposing or marketing vacant operational properties, rationalising the Council estate. 1) The New Ways Of Working projects at Penston House and the initial phases within John Muir House have been completed to allow decant of all staff from Randall House and the handback of this leased office building back to the landlord. This is a major step in the rationalisation of office space, generating financial savings and significant reduction in carbon emissions for the Council. 2) The consultations and designs for the next phases of work at John Muir House are being progressed. Staff consultations are progressing at the Brunton Hall, to input into an options appraisal for this building, following closures of various areas due to Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). 3) Work on disposal of vacant properties is progressing. 4) Place-making and rationalisation opportunities are being identified in Haddington and Musselburgh, in advance of the main place-making consultation work, planned to commence mid-2024. 5) The Estates team are progressing a review of non-operational properties.</p> <p>The Estates team have commenced review of the non-operational estate and will</p>	
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								progress this when they come out of business continuity and recruitment to vacant posts has been completed, enabling capacity.	
Key Priority Area 5: Improve Resource Efficiency and Sustainability									
1.5a	Facilities Management Services will aim to eliminate problematic or unnecessary single-use plastics by the end of 2020 as part of the UK Plastics Pact	UK Plastics Pact; Facilities Management targets	Facilities Management Service	Elimination of specific single-use plastics		Specific single-use plastics eliminated by end of 2020	2022	FMS no longer use single use plastic cutlery or plates/bowls. Food takeaway items are "Vegware" compostable clams and cups/lids. Single use plastic bottles of water are available in primary schools only if required (where a child does not have a refillable bottle) on a Friday for packed lunches. In secondary schools where possible take away cold drinks are purchased in can form however some brands are only available in bottles and given the limited choice available due to Food in Schools nutritional requirements these continue to be sold. Any cartons of milk available in primary or secondary have a paper straw.	
1.5b	Reduce ELC's waste and review recycling options within Council buildings and provide new systems where required	Conserve Resources at Work ('CRAW')	Waste Services; Facilities Management Service				2020 / ongoing	All council buildings have access to recycling for paper/card/glass/plastic/cans.	
1.5c	Reduction in ELC's paper use (printing) – 'going paperless'	Working Differently benefits	CCPMG	Reduction in printer paper order quantities		73% reduction in paper	2022	All surplus desktop printers have been removed from schools and offices – staff will either use electronic means of communication or MFD devices. Print procurement has been completed and a new contract signed with Canon. This will see devices rationalised across the Council and the fleet reduced by 18%, as well as replacing older energy hungry devices. The new contract brings in functionality to enable larger print volumes to be diverted to the Print Unit where they will be produced on more energy efficient and commercial devices. Advice on reducing print volumes and using alternative methods of communication will also be delivered with the change message. Where possible we are moving to online signatures/authorisation to avoid the need	

								to print a document, sign it, scan, and then destroy it.	
Key Priority Area 6: Reduce Emissions across our Transport Fleet and Staff Travel									
1.6a	Review / manage each of the following aspects of ELC estate and operations to reduce emissions towards achieving Net Zero: our Transport Fleet and Business Mileage	Climate Change Strategy; ELC Climate Change Reporting	CCPMG – all relevant Service Areas; Scottish Government	Emissions reduction towards Net Zero for Transport Fleet and Business Mileage	Business Mileage: Average Car – Unknown Fuel: 345.9 tCO2e; Bus: 35.8 tCO2e; Car – diesel: 24.2 tCO2e; HGV – average all types & sizes: 541.4 tCO2e; Van – Average (up to 3.5 tonnes) Diesel: 737.8 tCO2e	Reduce carbon emissions annually to reach Net Zero as soon as possible	Annually	Business Mileage (Diesel, Petrol, Hybrid, Electric, Unknown combined): 119 tCO2e Average Car (diesel): 6 tCO2e Average Car (hybrid): 18 tCO2e Average Car (Petrol): 6 tCO2e Bus: 40 tCO2e HGV (average all types & sizes): 731 tCO2e Van (Diesel): 511 tCO2e A review of pool car utilisation across council services being undertaken. The Fleet Strategy will undergo an update in January 2024 to capture the recent UK Government updates. Capital funding allocation still be to be confirmed for 24-25 replacement program of fleet	
1.6b	Implement an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) strategy for our Council vehicle fleet	ULEV Strategy	Transport Services	ULEV Strategy implemented		ULEV Strategy implemented	2022	Completed	
1.6c	Continue the development of ultra-low emissions vehicles (ULEV) options across the Council, including utilisation of full electric vehicle (EV) and hybrid technology for pool cars and operational vehicles	ULEV Strategy; Fleet Management; LTS	Transport Services; Roads Services	Numbers of ULEV vehicles in Council Fleet		Replace the Council's fleet with ULEV wherever feasible	2020 / ongoing	14% of fleet are ULEV.	
1.6d	Implement a 'Green Travel Plan' for all Council staff, setting out the expectation, resources and infrastructure to implement modal shift in staff travel behaviour from driving single-occupancy private cars to sustainable travel options, including use of electric vehicle (EV) pool cars, car sharing, active travel, use of public transport	Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	Roads Services	Introduce a travel plan for all ELC staff (subject to constituencies of the service)		Introduce a travel plan for all ELC staff	2023	We are part of an InnovateUK-funded project to develop a new tool called CalCommuter, which generates an individual commuting report for each user. This will be piloted across the Council in spring 2024. In addition to providing advice and information on travel for employees, this tool will enable the Council to analyse data and tailor incentives and policy accordingly. The data collected will inform the Staff Travel Plan now due to be completed in 2024.	

1.6e	Continue the programme of installation of electric charging points for electric vehicles at all Council offices, depots and public buildings	LTS	Roads Services	Number of EV charge points installed at Council buildings	The first EV charge point was installed in 2012	Increased number of EV charge points installed at all Council buildings wherever possible	Annual	Since the last update (December 2022) we have increased the total number of EV charging devices in our estate by 110, or by 63% (164 to 274). Figure correct as of 28/2/24		
1.6f	Roll out EV training for staff	Fleet Management; LTS	Transport Services	Number of staff trained and using the Council's EV pool fleet		Increased number of staff trained and using the Council's EV pool fleet	Annual	Battery electric fleet car mileage (average car and van): 187,179 miles. On-going as part of the drive assessment program provided by Transport Services		
1.6g	Develop electric bikes / i-bike options to reduce staff dependency on the car for shorter work journeys	LTS	Roads Services	Numbers of electric bikes / i-bikes for Council staff use		Electric bikes / i-bike options for staff use at all main Council offices	2022	We are currently running a pilot pool of ebikes from John Muir House, having borrowed a fleet of bikes from West Lothian Bike Library for 5 weeks. Once the pilot has concluded, we will analyse the usage data and look to apply for funding for a permanent pool as appropriate.		
1.6h	Work to achieve Cycling Scotland's <i>Cycle Friendly Employer</i> status	LTS	Roads Services	Working towards <i>Cycle Friendly Employer</i> status		Achieve <i>Cycle Friendly Employer</i> status	2022	We have achieved Cycle Friendly Employer status for John Muir House and Penston House.		

Key Priority Area 7: Sustainable Procurement

1.7a	Produce and implement a revised and updated Sustainable Procurement Policy, to ensure that goods and services are procured ethically and responsibly, from ethical and sustainable sources, including through the supply chain and sub-contractors	Procurement policy	Procurement Team	Production of an updated Sustainable Procurement Policy	Previous Sustainable Procurement Policy has not been fully implemented	Production, adoption and implementation of an updated Sustainable Procurement Policy		The Procurement Strategy template incorporates a sustainability test, enabling early consideration of sustainability aspects in the procurement process. The new contract management system facilitates the inclusion and monitoring of sustainability requirements during contract management actions.		
1.7b	Produce and implement a new community benefits in procurement procedure, set out in an updated Community Benefits Strategy	Community Benefits Strategy	Procurement Team	Production of an updated Community Benefits Strategy		Production, adoption and implementation of an updated Community Benefits Strategy	2021	The updated tender pack now includes a section on community benefits for procurements, available on the ELC website. Additionally, community benefits are integrated into the new contract management system, enabling discussions during the contract management stage.		

Key Priority Area 8: Our Schools and Young People

1.8a	Set up an East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum to ensure our young people's voices are heard and to support and empower young people to take action in their communities		Education; Community Learning & Development; SECCO	East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum		East Lothian Young People's Climate Change forum in place	2020 / ongoing	Implementation of climate change questions in the SEE survey is still being progressed. This survey provides feedback from P6, S2 and S5 pupils. A UNCRRC development plan has been established which places young people's voices at the centre of learning, including climate issues. A UNCRRC event was held with contributions from schools across East Lothian to share learning.		
1.8b	Embed the objectives of this Climate Change Strategy with the 'Learning for Sustainability' (LFS) agenda as part of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). LFS is delivered through outdoor learning, global citizenship and sustainable development	LFS Vision 2030 as part of Curriculum for Excellence	Education; Outdoor Learning; national education partners	Climate Change Strategy objectives embedded into 'Learning for Sustainability' element of school curriculum	Engagement with Outdoor Learning within school day: Primary 47% Secondary 100% (not including P7 camp)	Climate Change Strategy objectives embedded into 'Learning for Sustainability' element of school curriculum	2023	4.6 FTE OL Teaching Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of schools engaged with ELC OLS programmes (Academic year 2022/23): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Primary - 34 of 34 schools 100% b. Secondary - 4 of 6 schools 67% • Number of Pupils engaged with ELC OLS programmes (Academic year 2022/23): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. OL Teacher in Residence - 1354 pupils b. AWESome - 655 pupils c. Under the Stars - 467 pupils d. Skills for Adventure Sports - 863 pupils e. Bikeability - See 1.8f f. Targeted Intervention Outdoor Programmes - 84 pupils g. After School & Holiday Adventure Activity Programmes (in Partnership with Active Schools & Venturing Out) - Friday Afternoons AS Climbing, October/ Easter/ Summer Holidays Adventure Programme h. Staying Safe Around Water - 122 pupils • Total number of school programmes involving adventurous activities (Academic year 2022/23) - programmes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Primary - 195 programmes b. Secondary - 100 programmes • Number of Outdoor Learning staff training courses (Academic year 2022/23) - 61 		
1.8c	Support and expand the 'Eco-Schools' programme in East Lothian schools – potentially	Curriculum for Excellence	Education; ELC Countryside Ranger Service;	Levels of participation in the 'Eco-	In East Lothian currently 8 ELC schools have	Increased levels of participation in the 'Eco-Schools'	Annual	6 schools in East Lothian have the Green Flag award. That is one more school compared to last year.		

	with greater input from other agencies and organisations / a county wide programme to support schools and teachers with delivery of projects		external partners including Keep Scotland Beautiful	Schools' programme in East Lothian schools; eco-projects delivered in schools	Green Flags (according to Keep Scotland Beautiful website)	programme in East Lothian schools; more Green Flag Awards; more eco-projects delivered in schools			
1.8d	Improve sustainability and recycling in schools including reduction / elimination of single-use plastic packaging, a greater selection of recyclable materials across school catering services, improved recycling & food composting facilities in schools		Facilities Management; Education; Waste Services	Quantities of single-use plastic packaging purchased; quantities of recyclable materials across school catering services; recycling & food composting facilities in schools		No single-use plastic packaging in school canteens; increased quantities of recyclable materials across school catering services; recycling & food composting facilities in all schools	Annual	Any items made on the premises and packaged for sale are provided in compostable packaging. Some schools have facilities to compost food waste for the school garden.	
1.8e	Continue to source local food and achieve the Soil Association's <i>Food for Life Served Here</i> award; and promote/ensure more plant-based food options in schools, including 'meat free' days and vegan options		Facilities Management; Education	Achieving the <i>Food for Life Served Here</i> award; food options available in school canteens	Food for Life Served Here Bronze award has been achieved by ELC for past 6 years	Achieve <i>Food for Life Served Here</i> Silver award; more plant-based food options are available in schools, including promoted 'meat free' days and vegan options	Annual	ELC FMS retained their Silver Award for Soil Association FFL award in all primary schools.	
1.8f	Support schools to develop Bikeability Scotland training, to teach skills needed to cycle safely on roads, and 'Play on Pedals' (which aims to give all children the chance to learn to ride a pedal bike before they start Primary 1)	LTS	Education; Outdoor Learning; Roads Services; Connected Communities; partners	Number of East Lothian pupils undertaking Bikeability Scotland Level 1, 2 & 3 training, and 'Play on Pedals'	Number of pupils undertaking Bikeability training 2014/15: Level 1: 316; Level 2: 130; Level 3: 5.	Increased uptake of Bikeability Scotland. [In 2018/19: Level 1: 757 pupils; Level 2: 513 pupils; Level 3: 6]. Increased uptake of 'Play on Pedals'	Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bikeability delivery during academic year 22-23 delivered to 100% of primary schools for the first time. This was grant funded by Cycling Scotland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Level 1 1729 b. Level 2 1643 • Play on Pedals update contact: Eden Blair in Early Years and Childcare Team 	

1.8g	Active Travel to School campaign and promotion, including parking management around schools, and supporting modal shift from school buses to active travel wherever feasible	LTS; Area Partnership Plans	Roads Services; Transport Services; Sustrans; Area Partnerships; Education	Number of pupils travelling to school by active travel modes (Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey data)	72.8% of pupils travelling actively to school in 2018 (Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey data)	Increased number of pupils travelling to school by active travel modes (Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey data)	Annual	No further update from previous year: Permanent 20mph speed limits approved by ELC Cabinet March 2022. Transport Scotland initiative to expand 20mph speed limits and make the default national speed limit in built up areas 20mph rather than 30mph. School travel planning prioritised with 5 new school travel plans developed and funding for behaviour change interventions focused on school travel and parking.		
1.8h	Investigate and develop opportunities for business development training / apprenticeships for secondary pupils in the 'circular economy'		Economic Development; East Lothian Works; Education; external partners	Develop a programme of business development training / apprenticeships for secondary pupils in the 'circular economy'		Programme of business development training / apprenticeships in the 'circular economy' is developed and rolled out to secondary schools	2023	Employer Recruitment Incentives continue to be offered to East Lothian businesses as part of Scottish Government's No One Left Behind funding including PERI's which provide ERI for targeted parental groups. Discussions continue with both on and offshore wind farms to understand skills requirements, timelines and volume.		
1.8i	Support and expand pupils' engagement with and value of the local greenspace through Outdoor Learning as part of 'Learning for Sustainability' (Lfs) within the Curriculum for Excellence including Award schemes (Duke of Edinburgh; John Muir Award; SQA secondary phase awards)	Curriculum for Excellence	Education; Outdoor Learning	Levels of participation in Lfs agenda	Lfs Vision 2030 from Education Scotland measured through the EVOLVE offsite education reporting system; DofE engagement data; JMA engagement data; SQA awards	All schools delivering on vision on Lfs 2030. Measured through the EVOLVE offsite education reporting system. DofE engagement data. JMA engagement data. SQA awards.	Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of schools using local green space (out of school grounds) to extend their learning environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Primary - 34 of 34 (100%) b. Secondary - 6 of 6 (100%) Number of schools using local green space (out of school grounds) to extend their learning environment without the direct support of ELC OLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Primary - 17 of 34 schools (50%) b. Secondary - 6 of 6 schools (100%) John Muir Award (JMA) - 18 primary Schools (53%) Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions - 41 Expeditions 		

Key Priority Area 9: Climate Adaptation: A Resilient Council

1.9a	Implement the Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Plans to Review the resilience of Council buildings and	Corporate Risk Register; Risk Management Plans; Corporate Asset	Protective Services; Risk Management; all relevant Services			Included within Risk Register	Annual	The Corporate Risk Register includes 1) the strategic risk of failing to meet the statutory duties set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and 2) the risk associated with increasing occurrences of flooding and coastal		
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	infrastructure networks to sustain and enhance the benefits and services provided	Management Plan						erosion in East Lothian. Following the Council's declaration of a nature emergency in October 2023, the nature emergency was added to the climate emergency risk in the corporate risk register..		
Outcome 2: Active Travel and Sustainable Transport are used for everyday journeys, to drastically cut emissions from transport and improve air quality										
Key Priority Area 1: Sustainable Transport										
2.1a	Work with partners and key stakeholders, including national transport agencies and local public transport providers (bus and rail transport), to implement the Local Transport Strategy, enhancing and better integrating public transport provision and connectivity	Local Transport Strategy (LTS); Local Development Plan (LDP); Developer Contributions Framework	Roads Services; Transport Services; Planning Service; partners & stakeholders	As per Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	As per Local Transport Strategy (LTS)	As per LTS	ongoing	No further update from previous year: 8 new high-profile Journey Hub bus shelters installed in town centres, which will be complemented by a new branding and wayfinding scheme next year. Bike racks will be added to the Journey Hubs.		
2.1b	Progress feasibility studies for, and progress implementation of, Sustainable Transport Hubs in East Lothian	LTS	Roads Services; partners including Transport Scotland and Energy Saving Trust	Feasibility studies for Sustainable Transport Hubs progressing		Feasibility studies for Sustainable Transport Hubs progressing; implementation of Hubs progressing	2022	The Feasibility Study identified around 30 locations for Sustainable Transport Hubs (Journey Hubs) have been identified in East Lothian (at least one in each significant settlement), and we have secured funding from InnovateUK to support the design of modular furniture for these locations. Journey Hubs at Wallyford, Musselburgh, Dunbar and East Linton will shortly see new signage installed to make them more prominent.		
2.1c	Work in partnership with our communities to identify local travel and transport solutions and to ensure a fair and just transition to a carbon neutral East Lothian; explore options for shared community transport options, particularly for our rural communities	LTS; Area Plans	Roads Services; Connected Communities; partners & stakeholders including Area Partnerships, Community Councils, Tenants & Residents Associations	Community involvement in decision-making over local transport and travel solutions	Travel and transport actions in current Area Plans	Community approved travel & transport actions embedded in Area Plans and implementation programmes underway	ongoing	Roads capital budget has been 'paused' this year due to the Council's financial pressures.		
2.1d	Continue the promotion of sustainable transport options in East Lothian, including via Area	LTS; Area Partnership Plans	Roads Services; Transport Services;	Awareness levels from Residents' Survey; number of behaviour-		Increased levels of awareness from Residents' Survey; increased number of	2020 / ongoing	We continue to promote sustainable transport options in East Lothian via the GoSESTran App, GoJauntly, Love to Ride online, and the ELC Active Travel webpage, continuing dialogue with		

	Partnerships, East Lothian On The Move, Traveline, smart technology and mobile / digital technology		Connected Communities; Area Partnerships and other external partners	change interventions produced		behaviour-change interventions produced		our On the Move/AP transport groups. The Brompton Bike hire scheme will constitute another tool in the digital space for active travel in the county. In addition, we continue to support the East Lothian Walking Festival and are developing an innovate approach to pool cars for Council staff that will see car club cars made available to the public across the county during evenings and weekends.		
2.1e	Explore options for shared community transport options, particularly for our rural communities		Transport Services; partners; Connected Communities			Proposals for shared community transport options established.	2024	No update on this - potential to be funded via Windfarm community benefits.		
2.1f	Electric East Lothian: Continue the roll-out of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points around the county; improve management and maintenance of existing charge points	Electric Vehicle charge point (EVCP) strategy; LTS; LDP	Roads Services; Transport Scotland; Planning Service; partners	Number of EV charge points installed and in good working order	The first EVCP was installed in East Lothian in 2012	A Journey (Rapid) charger in each of our 12 largest towns; An increasing number of on- and off-street destination chargers for residential use	2023	We have at least one Journey charging site in each of our 6 largest towns. Commercially operated alternatives are also in operation or in the deployment stage in Musselburgh, Haddington, North Berwick, Dunbar and at Gladsmuir Interchange, expected to come into operation in 2024. In addition, we have an increasing number of On-Street and Destination chargers throughout the county, including all smaller conurbations. We have gone from 4 Destination chargers in 2017 to 221 publicly accessible chargers as of 28/2/24.		
2.1g	Electric East Lothian: support the switch to Electric Vehicles (EVs) in East Lothian	Electric Vehicle charge point strategy	Roads Services; key partners and stakeholders	The number of electric vehicles registered, as a proportion of the total number of licensed vehicles in East Lothian	0.07% EVs in 2015	15% switch to EVs by 2023	2023	According to Department for Transport (DfT) DVLA Table VEH0105 for "2023 Q3" figures show there were 65,885 Licensed vehicles registered in East Lothian of which VEH0132 identified 1,678 as Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs: battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric and "other fuels"). This equates to 2.55% of all vehicles.		
2.1h	Develop guidance for the specification and installation of EV charge points in new developments charging points (including for new flatted / communal parking in developments)	EV charge points Strategy; LTS; LDP / Supplementary Planning Guidance	Roads Services; Planning Service; partners	EV Strategy and guidance		Implementation of EV Strategy and guidance	Completed	We require 1 charger per household in residential developments, and 10% of parking spaces to have chargers in non-residential developments. This is in line with Building Standards. Our draft EV Infrastructure Strategy and Expansion Plan was put before Cabinet in 2023, and will be finalised following confirmation of funding options.		

2.1i	Work with businesses and other employment hubs to implement Green Travel Plans for staff, and work up a promotional campaign with rewards e.g., Sustrans' Scottish Workplace Journey Challenge		Roads Services; SECCO; partners; businesses	Number of Green Travel Plans for Staff produced for businesses / employers; number of staff travelling by active & sustainable modes		Increasing number of Green Travel Plans for Staff produced for businesses/employers, increasing number of staff travelling by active & sustainable modes	2022	No activity from ED for this action this year, EL Means Business event included reps from active travel / behaviour change.		
Key Priority Area 2: Active Travel										
2.2a	Progress implementation of the Segregated Active Travel Corridor	LTS; LDP	Planning Service; Roads Services; developers; Sustrans; SEStran	Implementation of Segregated Active Travel Corridor progressing		Segregated Active Travel Corridor being implemented and being used	2020 / ongoing	Detailed design of Dunbar to Haddington (Phases 1-3), Haddington to Tranent (Phase 5) and Wallyford Toll (Phase 7) will be complete by March 2024, and funding applications for construction of Phases 2A, 2B, 5 and 7 have been submitted to Transport Scotland and Sustrans. If these are successful, we should be able to begin construction in 2024.		
2.2b	Implement the actions in the Active Travel Improvement Plan (ATIP) (Local Transport Strategy)	LTS (ATIP); LDP; Developer Contributions Framework	Roads Services; Planning Service; Outdoor Access; Area Partnerships; Sustrans; SEStran; other partners	As per Active Travel Improvement Plan (LTS)	As per ATIP (LTS)	As per ATIP (LTS)	2020 / ongoing	We are developing a new Active Travel Infrastructure Strategy which will prioritise projects for construction.		
2.2c	Working with partners, including the East Lothian Cycle Forum and Area Partnerships, support and encourage community-initiated projects, including with funding and infrastructure	LTS / ATIP; Area Plans	Roads Services; Outdoor Access; Connected Communities; funding partners; Area Partnerships; community partners; East Lothian Cycle Forum	Community initiated projects are incorporated into Area Plans and implemented		Community initiated projects are incorporated into Area Plans and implemented	2020 / ongoing	<p>Work at Levenhall Links is complete, and the route of the John Muir Way has been amended to now follow the sea wall along a sealed surface.</p> <p>In addition to this a more direct cycle route has been surfaced in bitmac along the south side of Levenhall Links.</p> <p>Work continues in partnership with Sustrans and the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust to investigate improving the surface and making various other improvements to the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk. Work continues in partnership with the National Health Service and Sustrans to extend the Haddington to Longniddry Railway Walk through the grounds of the East Lothian Community Hospital, which will link the route into Haddington town centre.</p>		

								<p>North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership has funded some improvements to the coastal path heading east out of North Berwick.</p> <p>The Access Officer is working with Economic Development and Winterfield Golf Club to fund improvements to the John Muir Way around Winterfield Golf Club.</p> <p>The Access Office is working with Dunbar Area Partnership to use some of their allocation of Amenity Services labour to provide a walking route from Tynninghame to Binning Wood.</p>		
2.2d	Continue the promotion of active travel options in East Lothian, including via Area Partnerships, East Lothian Cycle Forum, East Lothian On The Move, Traveline, smart technology and mobile / digital technology	LTS; Area Partnership Plans	Roads Services; Transport Services; Area Partnerships; East Lothian Cycle Forum; external partners	Awareness levels from Residents' Survey; number of behaviour-change interventions produced		Increased levels of awareness from Residents' Survey; increased number of behaviour-change interventions produced	2020 / ongoing	We continue to promote sustainable transport options in East Lothian via the GoSESTran App, GoJauntly, Love to Ride online, and the ELC Active Travel webpage, continuing dialogue with our On the Move/AP transport groups. The Brompton Bike hire scheme will constitute another tool in the digital space for active travel in the county. In addition, we continue to support the East Lothian Walking Festival and are developing an innovate approach to pool cars for Council staff that will see car club cars made available to the public across the county during evenings and weekends.		
2.2e	Improve management and maintenance of walking routes and the Core Path Network, and continue to improve path surfaces to ensure access for all abilities, constructed for climate resilience (e.g. porous surfaces); ensure that our places encourage walking, with well-maintained streets, paths and public spaces that are fully accessible and fit for purpose; pedestrian priority; information on walking routes; walking / pedestrian infrastructure	Core Paths Plan; LTS / ATIP	Outdoor Access; Countryside Service; Roads Services; Connected Communities; Area Partnerships; funding partners; East Lothian Local Access Forum	Core Paths Audits data		Improved management and maintenance of Core Paths Network as per Core Paths Audits	2020 / ongoing	Core Path Network continues to be well maintained post Covid with small scale enhancements by Countryside Team including apprentice Rangers and very active Path Warden volunteers		

2.2f	Work with partners to improve cycling route connectivity and safety, particularly to connect rural communities to larger settlements and/or public transport hubs and connectivity to local amenities	LTS / ATIP; Area Plans	Roads Services; Connected Communities; funding partners; East Lothian Cycle Forum	Progressing implementation of connecting cycle routes		Connecting cycle routes are being implemented and being used	2020 / ongoing	The new Active Travel Infrastructure Strategy prioritises connecting communities into Journey Hubs		
2.2g	Roll out electric bike and public bicycle hire hubs with associated infrastructure in partnership with communities / Area Partnerships	LTS	Roads Services; Connected Communities; APs; partners	Bike hubs established; e-bike usage		Electric bike hubs and bicycle hire hubs established; e-bike usage is increasing	2022	With the collapse of both the City of Edinburgh JustEat bike-share Scheme in 2022 and the Bewegen Go-Ebike scheme in 2023 (both of which had bikes in Musselburgh), we have reviewed our approach to bike hire. We are now working in partnership with Brompton Bikes on an innovative 'virtual hub' model, which will see folding e-bike and push bikes made available for hire from staffed locations in Prestonpans, North Berwick and Dunbar from March 2023.		
2.2h	Support adult cycle training throughout the county		Outdoor Learning; Roads Services	Number of adult cycle training sessions and number of participants	None at present	Increased numbers of training sessions and participants	2023	Essential Cycling Skills project yet to be set up: now referred to as Adult Cycle Training (ACT). ELC update available from Richard Kerr: project allocated funding by SESTRAN		

Key Priority Area 3: Improving Air Quality										
2.3a	Continue to comply with Air Quality Objectives (AQO) and improve air quality in Musselburgh's Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Local Air Quality Management Progress Reports	Protective Services (Environmental Health – Air Quality); Planning Service; partners	Local Air Quality Management – Annual Progress Reporting: Air Quality Objectives	AQOs were exceeded in 2013; this is when an AQMA was declared	Comply with all Air Quality Objectives (AQO); no exceedances of any objectives	2020 / ongoing	<p>Monitoring for the 12-month period from 01/01/22 to 31/12/22 indicates that there were no exceedances of any AQO's in East Lothian during 2022. Concentrations of Nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA are significantly below the Annual Mean Air Quality Objective of 40ug/m3.</p> <p>As there have been no exceedances of the Nitrogen dioxide Annual Mean AQO since 2016, East Lothian Council have carried out a Detailed Assessment of Air Quality in Musselburgh and the results confirm that there were no exceedances of any AQO within the AQMA since 2016. The Detailed Assessment also concludes that future exceedances are unlikely. As such, East Lothian Council has been granted approval by the Scottish Government and SEPA for the revocation of the AQMA in Musselburgh. This process is underway and will involve a period of consultation with stakeholders prior to formal revocation by ELC. It is anticipated this process will be completed by Spring 2024.</p> <p>East Lothian Council shall continue to implement measures outlined within the AQAP and also develop and publish policies that supplement CAFS2 throughout 2023 and beyond and will report progress, including monitoring of PM2.5, PM10 and NO2, in the Annual Progress Report due in June 2024.</p>		
2.3b	Investigate collaborative working with City of Edinburgh Council to identify solutions to tackle traffic congestion and air quality in Musselburgh		Roads Services	Progression of collaborative solutions for Musselburgh with City of Edinburgh Council		Progression of collaborative solutions for Musselburgh with City of Edinburgh Council	ongoing	Edinburgh LEZ will be implemented this year. It doesn't extend to Musselburgh, but will put pressure on local drivers to use lower-emission vehicles or alternative modes of transport.		
2.3c	Reduce exposure to poor air quality through urban placemaking, including appropriate green network solutions such as hedges / use of landscaping to buffer emitting development		Planning Service; Protective Services; Connected Communities; partners	Placemaking and urban planning of green solutions	The Council has already planted hundreds of urban trees	Increase green solutions as barriers / buffers to air pollution	ongoing	We continue to take opportunities to expand urban green network and landscaping opportunities including appropriate planting. Tree planting took place during the planting season (October 2022 to end of March 2023) in our communities through the Queen's Green Canopy (working with partners) and Climate Forest tree planting initiatives, including urban trees and 'street trees'.		

2.3d	Explore innovative technological solutions to improve urban Air Quality, including the latest version of the CityTree installation for Musselburgh	Local Air Quality Management Progress Reports	Protective Services (Environmental Health – Air Quality); partners	Explore ideas for innovative technical solutions to improve urban Air Quality	Phase 1 CityTree pilot project ran in 2018/19 in Musselburgh's AQMA	Development of innovative technical solutions to improve urban Air Quality	2025	No further action		
2.3e	Expand Air Quality awareness-raising campaign to end idling of vehicles, including promoting health and wellbeing implications of cleaner air	Air Quality Management	Protective Services; East Central Scotland Vehicle Emissions Partnership; partners; communities	Air Quality awareness-raising campaign produced		Air Quality awareness-raising campaign produced and rolled out, monitoring underway	ongoing	The second focused period of advertising involving TV, radio, bus backs and social media will take place between Nov 2023 and will run until Christmas with the third and final period being in February 2024.		

Key Priority Area 4: Climate Adaptation: Resilient Transport Networks and Infrastructure

2.4a	Implement the Road Asset Management Plan, Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Plans, to ensure the road, rail and active travel network infrastructure, including coastal protection for coastal transport infrastructure, is future-proofed to withstand extreme weather events / tidal surges and future changes to the climate; ensure paths are constructed for climate resilience (e.g. porous surfaces); continue to monitor and review	LTS; Road Asset Management Plan, Corporate Risk Register, Risk Management Plans	Road Services; Structures & Flooding Team; national & local partners				ongoing	In January 2023, the Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) 2022-28 was published. This plan identifies 3 flood studies and 5 surface water management plans to be undertaken within East Lothian in this period.		
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Outcome 3: Net Zero, Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings that are adapted for a changing climate

Key Priority Area 1: Energy Efficient Homes and Buildings

3.1a	Continue to improve the energy efficiency of East Lothian's existing buildings, exploring options for low carbon and renewable heat and energy sources to meet the targets set out in the Energy Efficiency Scotland	LHEES; Local Housing Strategy (LHS); Asset Management	Strategy & Development; Projects Team; Scottish Government			Reduced Energy Consumption	Annual	2023/23 projects have commenced with CWI, EWI, new windows and doors as well as the installation of Solar PV and battery on council and privately owned properties. The respective budgets for these works are £2.5million (council) and £1.1 million (private).		
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	Programme to make Scotland's existing buildings near zero carbon wherever feasible.									
3.1b	Maximise funding opportunities for energy efficiency measures across all housing tenures in East Lothian and continue to complete fabric improvements to domestic Council and private stock	LHEES; Local Housing Strategy (LHS)	Strategy & Development; Housing Team; Property Maintenance	Number of measures installed		Increased number of energy efficiency measures installed	Annual	2023/23 projects have commenced with CWI, EWI, new windows and doors as well as the installation of Solar PV and battery on council and privately owned properties. The respective budgets for these works are £2.5million (council) and £1.1 million (private).		
3.1c	Roll out the Energy Advice Service to support occupiers to run the buildings efficiently and effectively, particularly to those households most at risk of fuel poverty.		Strategy & Development	Number of homes visited by Energy Advisors			Annual	ChangeWorks have continued to deliver the energy advice service, which aims to reduce fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency of homes and achieve financial savings for households. Waiting list numbers have remained high (98 at the end of Q2) due to demand for the service. Funding for the service was temporarily increased to allow more cases to be dealt with. Home visits have resumed for clients who are digitally excluded or for more complex cases. It has been agreed that the service will be re-tendered next year (2024).		
3.1d	Improve knowledge and understanding of Council housing stock, i.e., condition, fuel poverty, energy efficiency		Property Maintenance	Number of Council housing assets with full stock condition intelligence		All assets to be physically surveyed on a 5-year rolling programme	Annual	A 5-year rolling survey programme assessing stock condition, energy efficiency & housing quality commenced in January 2020, This was halted due to the COVID pandemic, however has now recommenced.		
3.1e	Continuing to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) while also meeting Scotland's Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (EESH) is a priority for all social landlords. Widen the range of technologies under consideration to allow compliance with the EESH2 standard by 2032		Property Maintenance	% of housing stock compliant with the SHQS / EESH	Annual return of the Social Housing Charter (ARC)	SHQS - ongoing. EESH - December 2020.	2020 / ongoing	SHQS Compliance – 86.94% (Pass – 7918; Fail – 1009; In Abeyance 171; Exempt – 9) & EESH1 – 90.86. In the main, the significantly improved position relates to previous non-compliant alarms installations which have now been brought up to standard. The EESH element of SHQS (i.e. element 35) has improved and sits around 3% higher than the Scottish Local Authority average.		

3.1f	Identify solar PV opportunities for public and private buildings where technically feasible		Transformation Board; Strategy & Development; Property Maintenance	Number of PV installations	Zero		Ongoing	The opportunity for an increase in solar PV and batteries across East Lothian was explore during the preparation of the draft LHEES. More detailed work will be carried relating to East Lothian Council assets when details of the Private Wire PPA opportunity have been fully investigated.		
3.1g	Continue to install LED lighting in our buildings and domestic stair wells. Exploring opportunities for future smart intelligent lighting		Strategy & Development; Property Maintenance				Ongoing	No further update. New lighting in ELCs domestic housing is modernised to the new LED specification on a find and fix basis.		
3.1h	Continue to explore setting up an Energy Service Company (ESCO)		Housing; Property Maintenance; Strategy & Development; Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing	No further update. New lighting in ELCs domestic housing is modernised to the new LED specification on a find and fix basis.		
3.1i	Continue to explore opportunities for new innovative energy efficiency work streams through the Energy Transformation Board		Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing	The ETB has overseen the preparation of the LHEES. The draft report was approved by Council on 31 October 2023. The final version, along with a 5-year Delivery Plan will be reviewed by the ETB in January 2024 and presented to the Council in February. This will contain numerous innovative workstreams to delivery energy efficiency and a pathway to net zero heat.		
3.1j	Improve knowledge and understanding of private housing stock, i.e., condition, fuel poverty, energy efficiency, to help understand those properties that are failing to meet the Scottish Government's EPC target and help facilitate Scottish Government funding to those who are eligible for energy efficiency measures		Strategy & Development	Number of private properties with energy efficiency data		All assets to be surveyed and validated through systems such as Home Analytics and physical surveys	Annual	2023/23 projects have commenced with CWI, EWI and the installation of Solar PV and battery on privately owned properties. Our budget this year is £1.1 million. An LHEES officer has been appointed and a draft LHEES completed.		

3.1k	Review and update the Council's affordable housing specification and design guide to ensure all future developments are low carbon and sustainable		Strategy & Development			To review and update the Affordable Housing specification and design guide by March 2022	2022	The writing of the Local Housing Strategy 2024-29 has delayed the review of the SPG. The LHS has included the review of the SPG as one of the actions to be completed. It is now estimated that the SPG will be reviewed in 2023/24 alongside the preparation of the LDP2.	
Key Priority Area 2: Opportunities for Sustainable Energy and Heat									
3.2a	Participate in the Scottish Government's pilot Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) Programme and respond to proposals to create a statutory framework for LHEES	LHEES	Strategy & Development; SECCO; Planning; Transformation Team; Scottish Government	Production of an East Lothian Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) with identified actions		Production, adoption and implementation of an East Lothian Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES)	2023	The LHEES Officer began work in May 2023. An intensive period of internal and external stakeholder consultation followed. The draft LHEES was approved by Council on 31 October 2023. Further changes are currently being made alongside the preparation of the Delivery Plan. This is on course to be completed and published in February 2024.	
3.2b	Explore with local communities to pursue local renewable energy schemes / Community Energy Schemes with local benefits, following on from LHEES	LHEES; Planning	Strategy & Development; SECCO; Planning; Transformation Team; Area Partnerships; Community Councils			To be developed during LHEES process	2025	The LHEES Officer began work in May 2023. An intensive period of internal and external stakeholder consultation followed. The draft LHEES was approved by Council on 31 October 2023. Further changes are currently being made alongside the preparation of the Delivery Plan. This is on course to be completed and published in February 2024. LHEES identifies areas with opportunity for community energy schemes.	
3.2c	Research opportunities to utilise local water bodies for renewables including local reservoirs and rivers		Energy Transformation Board				Ongoing	A sea source heat pump is being considered as one of the potential heat sources to underpin the LHEES. Local use of the Esk and Tyne rivers may also be an option for certain communities.	
3.2d	Work with partners to continue projects to explore the use of low carbon District Heat Networks in order to capture and utilise waste heat from industry, Energy from Waste plants, ground-source heat from disused mines, other heat sources	LHEES; Local Development Plan (LDP)	Strategy & Development; Planning Service; SECCO; Transformation Team; external partners	Number of District Heating Networks in place and number of buildings etc. connected to them	Need to establish a baseline	Increased number of District Heating Networks in place and increased number of buildings etc. connected to them	2023	Hargreaves have carried out a series of studies on the feasibility of using mine water as the heat source for a heat network to supply the Blindwells site. ELC has undertaken further study of mine water opportunities at Cockenzie. This demonstrates the scope for a modest scale heat network. Viridor is working with ELC as part of the LHEES to explore the use of heat from the Dunbar EfW site.	
3.2e	Introduce a Planning Condition for developers to report on their actions	LDP; Climate Change Strategy	Strategy & Development; Planning		0		2020 / ongoing	For all relevant development proposals, planning officers encourage developers to submit their proposals to reduce carbon emissions with their	

	taken to reduce the carbon emissions from the build and from the completed development		Service; Building Standards					planning application. Where this has not been done, then the Council imposes a condition requiring details of measures to reduce carbon emissions to be submitted to and approved by the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.	
3.2f	Ensure all new build affordable housing delivered directly by the Council is as sustainable and low carbon as possible		Strategy & Development	Number of new builds delivering renewable technology		All affordable new build projects as a minimum must meet the Scottish Government's Greener Standard and beyond where possible	Ongoing	All New Build Projects with building warrants dated after this month will benefit from zero emission heating systems. Prospective developments at Wallyford and Herdman flat are currently either at planning preparation or submission stage. All will benefit from zero emissions heating and enhanced building fabrics. The New Build Team will continue to ensure that wherever possible all affordable housing will benefit from enhanced environmental standards through the use of zero carbon emission heating systems, electric vehicle charger points, photovoltaic panels, increased insulation and modern methods of construction MMC.	
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Buildings									
3.3a	Increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change and what individuals / homeowners / employers can do to adapt, by setting up a website central hub linking to information from ELC and relevant partner agencies	Climate Change Strategy; Resilient Communities initiative	SECCO; Strategy & Development; Web Team; external partners including Adaptation Scotland	Website Hub set up; number of 'hits' on website	None at present specifically for East Lothian	Website Hub set up; number of 'hits' on website increasing	2022	East Lothian Council has a couple of websites providing information on climate action. For example, the 'Net Zero for Business' website which provides local businesses with case studies on the opportunities associated with climate action, the 'Climate Emergency' website with general information on the Council's work towards tackling the climate emergency, the Fuel Billing Advice which helps residents improve the energy efficiency, and East Lothian on the Move which guides people on more sustainable travel options in the county.	
3.3b	Continue to ensure that all Council properties meet Scottish Housing Quality Standards and Energy Efficiency Standards for Social Housing (ESSH) targets, which ensure homes are better adapted for a changing climate	Local Housing Strategy	Strategy & Development; Housing Team; Property Maintenance; Scottish Government	% of housing stock compliant with the SHQS / ESSH	Annual return of the Social Housing Charter (ARC)	SHQS - ongoing. ESSH - December 2020.	2020 / ongoing	ESSH compliance has continually improved year-on-year most recently from 90% in 2022 to 91% in 2023, which is 3% high than the Scottish Local Authority average.	

3.3c	Work with partners to explore innovative options for adapting buildings and the urban environment for a changing climate, e.g., green roofs, green walls, ventilation adaptations, sustainable drainage systems		Strategy & Development; Housing Team; external partners and developers	Buildings / developments incorporating innovative green climate adaptation technologies	No baseline at present	Increase in number of buildings / developments incorporating innovative green climate adaptation technologies	2025	All new housing developments designed with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) since about 2015. New projects underway or progressing: Fa'side Lodge and Windygoul, Tranent, Lempockwells and - including installation of heating systems with zero carbon emissions and electric vehicle charge points. Scottish Government Affordable Housing benchmarks have increased and allow for additional greener measures, these are being applied for in addition to other funding to assist with overall costs. Enhanced environmental standards and innovative methods are being considered at all forthcoming projects.		
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Outcome 4: A Resource Efficient and Sustainable East Lothian and the route to Zero Waste

Key Priority Area 1: Waste Reduction and Recycling

4.1a	Increase waste recycling in East Lothian to meet the 2025 target	Waste Management	Waste Services	% of total household waste that is recycled (national targets)	51.8% (2016/17)	70%	2025	53.1% (2022) Total waste generated in 2022 fell to 49,488 tonnes with 26,245 tonnes recycled. Dry summer reduced the amount of garden waste managed by 11.5% (964 tonnes). Food waste generated has returned to post pandemic levels. Amount of construction type waste brought to the recycling centres reduced by 1900 tonnes		
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4.1b	Work with Scottish Government to set interim targets for being a Zero Waste County		Waste Services; Scottish Government				As soon as possible, by 2025	Landfill rate 9.3% Landfill used only as a contingency for planned and unplanned EfW plant outages.		
4.1c	Work with partners to progress installation of public taps / water fountains for refilling water bottles		Work with partners including Scottish Water / Planning Service	Number of taps installed		Increased number of taps installed	Annual	No progress has been made,		
4.1d	Support communities to progress towards and achieve Plastic Free Community status	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO; Waste Services; community partners					Inclusion in Climate Change strategy - enabling communities to achieve objective one on Local Governance. Single use plastic ban in Scotland effective from August 2022. UK wide plastic packaging tax in force from April 2022.		
4.1e	Continue to assist businesses and event organisers to implement resource efficiency, energy efficiency and waste reduction measures		Economic Development; Resource Efficient Scotland (RES); businesses	Number of energy/resource efficiency measures installed; cost saved to		Increased uptake of energy/resource efficiency measures by businesses; increased cost savings	ongoing	'Net Zero' expert help pilot program for local enterprises completed during 22/23, rolled out during 23/24. Working at regional level (RPF) on development of a 'Net Zero Skills Hub' to address opportunities around green jobs. ELC's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer is working together with Legal &		

				businesses - as per RES data					Licensing to support framework for no single-use plastic and waste reductions in business and event sector.		
4.1f	Develop and implement a Zero Waste Events policy		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of a Zero Waste Events policy	No policy currently in place	Zero Waste Events policy established	2025		ELC's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer is working together with Legal & Licensing to support framework for no single-use plastic and waste reductions in business and event sector. Some Zero Waste Refill shops and local ReUse events have been supported through community funding from ELC.		
4.1g	Progress revision of licencing / permits so lease-holders / activities are required to cut single-use plastic and strongly encouraged to attempt a zero waste activity and demonstrate carbon reduction strategies		Legal & Licensing; SECCO	Revised licencing / permits progressing	To be established	Progressing revision of licences / permits to reduce single-use plastic use and encourage zero waste ethos	2025		Climate Strategy section and advice on reusable cup scheme and limit to single use plastic added to the east Lothian Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy published 1st Nov 2023. Lasts until Oct 2028.		
4.1h	Continue to reduce the Carbon Impact of household waste generated and managed for East Lothian	Waste Management	Waste Services	Carbon Impact of household waste generated and managed for East Lothian (tCO2e) - from SEPA national data	In 2018: 110,686 tCO2e. Carbon Impact per tonne of household waste managed in 2018: 2.21.	Continued reduction in Carbon Impact per tonne of household waste managed (from SEPA data)	2025		2022: 106,544 tCO2e impact per tonne of waste managed was 2.15 reduction in the total amount of waste generated meant that the carbon impact per person has fallen from 1.05 to 0.95. Scottish average was 1.02		
Key Priority Area 2: Circular Economy											
4.2a	Work with partners to progress Circular Economy options for East Lothian's communities - including expanding 'Zero Waste' initiatives into all of East Lothian's communities		Waste Services; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; SECCO; partners including Zero Waste Scotland	Circular Economy initiatives / Zero Waste hubs progressing	Zero Waste Hubs currently in Musselburgh and Dunbar	Progressing Circular Economy initiatives / Zero Waste hubs in all of East Lothian's communities	2025		Temporary closure of Macmerry Recycling Centre in October 2023 has reduced the number of Recycling Centres to three.		
4.2b	Work with partners to support the establishment of Repair Cafés / facilities in each community, including the provision of storage facilities so that tool		Waste Services; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; SECCO; Connected Communities; partners	Establishment of circular economy facilities progressing	Tool Library already established in Musselburgh	Increased number of circular economy facilities across the county	2025		Temporary closure of Macmerry Recycling Centre in October 2023 has reduced the number of Recycling Centres to three.		

	shares, toy libraries and household equipment libraries can be hosted									
4.2c	Businesses: Work with partners including Zero Waste Scotland to encourage circular economy business models among East Lothian's businesses		Waste Services; Economic Development & Strategic Investment; SECCO; partners including Zero Waste Scotland; businesses	Number of businesses using circular economy business models	Need to establish baseline	Increasing number of businesses using circular economy business models	2025	'Net Zero' expert help pilot programme for local enterprises completed during 22/23, rolled out during 23/24. Working at regional level (RPF) on development of a 'Net Zero Skills Hub' to address opportunities around green jobs.		

Key Priority Area 3: Reducing Litter and Plastic Waste

4.3a	Prepare a Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR)		Amenity Services	Preparation of Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR)		Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) prepared	2025	We are continuing to work with partner organisation Keep Scotland Beautiful to progress LEAMS / LMS new litter management system as this becomes available through Zero Waste Scotland. Ongoing.		
4.3b	Reduction of litter through promotion / awareness-raising and initiatives, including supporting the work of local groups in reducing littering	COPLAR	Amenity Services; SECCO; external partners	To be established once Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) developed			2025	Ongoing promotion and awareness-raising. We continue to support local litter-picking groups and individuals. ELLi (East Lothian Litter Initiative) still in place and promoted on the Council's website. We also continue to liaise with external partners.		
4.3c	Work with partners to implement practical and cost-effective solutions for reducing and eliminating micro plastic granule loss into the environment from all our artificial sports pitches	Climate Change Strategy	SECCO, Sports Development; Fidra; other external partners	Number of artificial sports pitches with solutions to reduce / eliminate micro plastic granule loss implemented	No sports pitches currently have installations to reduce / eliminate micro plastic loss	Increase number of Artificial sports pitches to have installations to reduce / eliminate micro plastic loss	Annual	2 x re-surfaced 3G pitches with mitigation measured complete. One further pitch due for completion in Dec 23 with remaining 3 to be delivered from 24/25.		

Outcome 5: A Low Carbon and Sustainable Economy

Key Priority Area 1: Businesses and the Local Economy

5.1a	Implement Economic Development Strategy refresh: Take opportunities to encourage low carbon innovation, research, new business opportunities – e.g., in renewables	Economic Development Strategy (EDS)	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of low carbon innovation / research / new business opportunities: number of Business Gateway starts in this sector		Increasing number of Business Gateway starts in this sector and Business Gateway growth meetings. DDI (Data Driven Innovation) City Deal project offers innovation	Annually to 2025	New Local Economy Strategy due for approval by end 23/24. emerging principles include sustainability, community wealth, and net zero transformation'		
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				and Business Gateway growth meetings		opportunities, exploratory stage.				
5.1b	Work with partners to develop training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors to future-proof our county and our workforce for the technological advances of the future	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Development of training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors: Look to run Business Gateway workshops on Environmentally Sustainable business model – number each year with attendees		Increasing number of training and development opportunities in the low carbon technologies and renewables sectors	Annually to 2025	Ongoing discussions with both on and offshore wind farms to develop a skills pipeline including clarification around job roles, skills and timelines. ELW and Economic Development members of the Energy Forum Group chaired by MSP Paul McLennan.		
5.1c	Work with partners to build low carbon planning, energy efficiency and sustainability advice into the East Lothian business support ecosystem, and continue to support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, improve energy and resource efficiency, and increase sustainability in their processes, supply chains, packaging, distribution	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners including Resource Efficient Scotland	Number of businesses supported to improve energy/resource efficiency, as recorded by ELC's resource efficiency consultant		Increased number of businesses supported to improve energy/resource efficiency	Annually to 2025	See action 4.1e and 4.2c		Jan 2022: Cabinet confirms combining action 4.1e and 4.2c into this action
5.1d	Support the faster roll out of Superfast Broadband, including required infrastructure for new developments	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	% of East Lothian properties with Superfast Broadband (30Mbps - National target)	85% (2016/17)	100% (2022)	2022	ED Officer working across rural and urban areas to address fixed broadband connectivity and speeds, and mobile not-spots. Significant progress made in community and individual connectivity issues, including Whittinghame, East Saltoun, and Dirleton.		

5.1e											ACTION DELETED IN JAN 2021
5.1f	Promote and add a new Business Gateway course on 'Running a Sustainable Business'	EDS	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Implementation of a Business Gateway course on 'Running a Sustainable Business'; number of participants	No course at present; need to establish baseline for minimum number of participants to make course viable	Business Gateway course on 'Running a Sustainable Business' implemented and promoted; minimum number of participants achieved	2025	Business Gateway continues to develop and provide resources for businesses of all stages and sizes in terms of sustainability, moves towards net zero and looking at the circular economy. We've developed and run throughout the year a range of webinars/online sessions, from the very basics of explain sustainability and why it's important to all businesses, to more in-depth sessions around incorporating net zero and sustainability into your marketing plans. Sustainability and net zero questions are also now incorporated into our downloadable business plan templates.			
5.1g	Industry: Engage with local industry and work in partnership to support and encourage our local industries and national agencies to reduce emissions from industry (including exploring carbon off-setting projects), supporting the Scottish Government's targets		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners	Emissions from Industry sector, from UK Government data	2017 data for East Lothian: Industry & Commercial Electricity: 73.1 ktCO ₂ ; Industry & Commercial Gas: 38.4 ktCO ₂ ; Large Industrial Installations: 589.7 ktCO ₂ ; Industrial & Commercial Other Fuels: 33.7 ktCO ₂	Decrease in emissions from Industry sector	Annual	2021 data for East Lothian from UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021, Table 2.1: Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions estimates 2005-2020 (ktCO ₂ e) - Full data set: Industry Electricity = 34.6 ktCO ₂ e Industry Gas = 31.4 ktCO ₂ e Large Industrial Installations = No data Industry 'Other' = 17.9 ktCO ₂ e			
5.1h	Agriculture: Engage with farmers and landowners and work in partnership to support and encourage our local agriculture sector and national agencies to reduce emissions from agriculture and promote biodiversity and sustainability, supporting the Scottish Government's targets		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Countryside Services; partners	Emissions from Agriculture sector, from UK Government data	2017 data for East Lothian: Agriculture: 19.1 ktCO ₂	Decrease in emissions from Agriculture sector	Annual	The Biodiversity Officer & Landscape Officers continue to work with landowners to promote biodiversity within woodland creation schemes. Land owners & Farmers are represented on the East Lothian Biodiversity Partnership by NFU Scotland, Game & Wildlife Construction Trust & Scottish Land & Estates.			
5.1i	Work with partners to explore opportunities to develop the Carbon Capture, Utilisation and, potentially, Storage (CCUS) sector in East Lothian		Economic Development & Strategic Investment; partners			Cockenzie – NPF3 for renewable energy, ongoing engagement with potential investors	2025	On hold. ELC's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer attended a workshop with University of Edinburgh and other local authorities in southeast Scotland to explore carbon capture storage potential and sites last year. Awaiting re-engagement from these stakeholders.			

Key Priority Area 2: Thriving Town and Rural Centres										
5.2a										Action combined with 5.2a as of December 2021.
5.2b	Vibrant Low Carbon Local Economies – continue to support locally driven improvements to access, retail, service, and visitor experience in town and rural centres enhancing the circular economy ('shop local', farmers' markets, making connections to East Lothian Food & Drink, broad based business support, active and sustainable travel).	EDS; LTS; Town Centre Strategies; Area Plans	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per EDS	As per EDS	As per EDS; linkages with Visit East Lothian channels	2020 / ongoing	ED has completed their 'Net Zero for Business', which gather case studies of local businesses tackling climate change. These are available with more tips on a new website for the public. Business Gateway continues to develop and provide resources for businesses of all stages and sizes in terms of sustainability, moves towards net zero and also looking at the circular economy.		
5.2c	Provide specific support and signposting for low carbon, zero waste, sustainable, and social enterprise / community wealth building business models.	EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Town Centre partners	As per EDS	As per EDS	As per EDS	2020 / ongoing	Business Gateway continues to develop and provide resources for businesses of all stages and sizes in terms of sustainability, moves towards net zero and looking at the circular economy. We've developed and run throughout the year a range of webinars/online sessions, from the very basics of explain sustainability and why it's important to all businesses, to more in-depth sessions around incorporating net zero and sustainability into your marketing plans. Sustainability and net zero questions are also now incorporated into our downloadable business plan templates.		
5.2d	Work with partners to investigate options for local business hubs / co-working spaces, and support local co-working initiatives, if demand is identified.	EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development & Strategic Investment; Town Centre partners	Number of local business hubs / co-working spaces progressing		Increased number of local business hubs / co-working spaces progressing. If demand is identified, then work with partners to realise this demand, based on funding, commitment from businesses, and availability of premises.	Annual	Emerging theme for support in the new Local Economy Strategy 2024/34		

5.2e	Continue to develop, deliver, and support town, local, and village centre regeneration initiatives including the repair of and improvements to the insulation and energy efficiency of private and local authority business premises, and the reuse of vacant / derelict buildings and land for mixed use development.	LHS; LPD; EDS; Town Centre Strategies	Economic Development and Strategic Investment; Planning Service; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing	Actions from 2022 update ongoing, Dunbar CARS launched and allocating funds to TC regeneration, including Ridge projects that also cover skills and employability. Place Based Programme funding to be utilised over next 2 years with other funds to deliver TC Regeneration, e.g., completion of Cockenzie CARS by 2023 and Dunbar Cars to 2025/26. Opportunities via multiple benefits from MFPS / MAT and other schemes, UKSPF investment plan includes communities and place funding opportunities, e.g. to support reuse and regeneration of buildings in a sustainable manner.		Action combined with 5.2a as of December 2021.
5.2f	Enterprising Communities - Support local efforts to enhance East Lothian's town, local, and village centres, helping deliver community-led regeneration.	EDS; LDP; LHS; Town Centre Strategies; Area Plans	Economic Development and Strategic Investment; Planning Service; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	As per LHS, EDS, LDP, Local Area Plans, and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing	UKSPF funding made available to support community led project feasibility and delivery. Additional funding made available to VCEL to enhance locality worker coverage and support.		
5.2g										Jan 2022: Cabinet confirms combining action with 5.1d
5.2h	Proactive Planning – Encourage well connected, sustainable, low carbon town, local, and rural centre development, and recognising shifting retail and working trends, support mixed uses in centres to enhance sustainability and resilience	LDP; EDS; LHS; Town Centre Strategies	Planning Service; EDSI; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	As per LDP, EDS and Town Centre Strategies	2020 / ongoing	The Planning authority in our decision making supports the principle of uses appropriate to our town and local centres, as well as well connected, sustainable, low. carbon town, local, and rural centre development. NPF4 has brought stronger support for town centres and this will be reflected in planning decision going forward.		
Key Priority Area 3: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Businesses										

5.3a	Work with partners to encourage and support business, public sector and third sector organisations and other institutions prepare for the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change, including preparing Business Continuity Plans		SECCO; Economic Development & Strategic Investment (EDSI); partners including Adaptation Scotland	Number of businesses, public sector organisations and other institutions prepared for climate change impacts; number of Business Continuity Plans in place		Increasing number of businesses, public sector organisations and other institutions prepared for climate change impacts; increasing no. of Business Continuity Plans in place	2025	The website 'Net Zero for Business' was launched in 2023, providing local businesses with case studies to better understand the opportunities of taking climate action. A Capability Framework workshop was also carried out in March 2023 to assess the Council's response to climate change adaptation. Economic Development was both interviewed and part of the workshop to discuss collaboration with e.g., businesses to build resilience to climate change.		
5.3b	Work with partners to raise awareness of climate change impacts on businesses / climate adaptation measures		SECCO; EDSI; partners including Adaptation Scotland	Number of articles / events		Increase number of promotional articles and events attended	2025	Net Zero for Business has been run by the Council's Economic Development Team to map opportunities for businesses on taking climate action. Several case studies have been produced to share learnings on carbon management plans and their benefits for businesses. The Council's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer also attended the 'Meet the Council' event to talk with local businesses about the climate emergency. Working to engage with businesses around the MFPS to promote benefits of the scheme.		
5.3c	Engage local businesses with the Resilient Communities initiative and the Council's Severe Weather Emergency Planning, to identify where they can provide support for our local communities in times of hardship due to climate and severe weather impacts	Resilient Communities initiative	Economic Development; SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; businesses	Production of Emergency Response / Community Resilience plans to include local businesses		All Emergency Response / Community Resilience plans include local businesses	Ongoing to 2025	Business continuity and emergency planning advice provided to local businesses through support and online resources.		
Outcome 6: A Healthy and Resilient Natural Environment and the route to Carbon Neutral										
Key Priority Area 1: Our Natural Environment and Biodiversity										
6.1a	Progress an extensive annual native Tree Planting and maintenance programme in East Lothian to offset carbon	Biodiversity Action Plan	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities /	Number of native trees planted / hectares of new woodland	To be established (tree planting underway for many years)	Increased tree planting	annually	Ongoing. Encouraged and supported by Amenity Services / Tree Officer and Countryside Service / Countryside Rangers on Council-owned land. Until end of March 2023 the Council was part of the steering group for the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting		

	emissions, in appropriate locations		Area Partnerships and other partners; volunteers	planted annually				initiative in East Lothian (led by the Lord Lieutenancy) which resulted in considerable interest and planting of trees by local communities, schools, businesses and landowners, in addition to tree planting on Council land. We produced a Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian, which will inform further Climate Forest tree planting locations. 'TreeTime East Lothian' tree planting initiative is underway, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. We are also undertaking further tree planting as part of our 'Nature Networks' project in our parks & greenspaces, which is ongoing.		
6.1b	Prepare a Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian, as required by Scotland's new planning act		Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Planning Service	Preparation of a Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian		Woodland and Forestry Strategy for East Lothian prepared, adopted and implemented	2025	The Forestry and Woodland Strategy (renamed the 'Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian) was consulted on between June and October 2023. Responses were received from the public, community groups, key agencies and community councils. Officers are considering the responses and intend to finalise the strategy and related assessments for Cabinet decision in January.		
6.1c	Plant 40,000m ² of wildflower meadows in East Lothian each year to improve biodiversity and increase pollination	Biodiversity Action Plan	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners; volunteers	Area of wildflower meadows planted	30,000m ² (2019)	40,000m ² annually	annually	Ongoing – we continue to progress this. New opportunities are being taken wherever possible, including working with local community groups to plant wildflower areas and identifying opportunities to re-wild areas. During 2023 Amenity Services undertook a Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project, with funding via Greenspace Scotland from the Scottish allocation of the Levelling Up Parks Fund provided to the Scottish Government by the UK Government (report and action plan on 'Improving Nature Networks for East Lothian's Communities' is on the Council's website) which identified areas for biodiversity enhancements in our parks & greenspaces that are supported by the public. This included wildflower meadow areas. We continue to implement these across our communities and to raise awareness through publicity & promotion and signage on site.		

6.1d	Review and update actions in ELC Countryside Site Management Plans to ensure they reflect best practice in site management for carbon sequestration / carbon storage potential – particularly for Aberlady Bay, John Muir Country Park, Gullane Bay; subject to the appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment	ELC Countryside Site Management Plans	Countryside Service	Production of revised Countryside Site Management Plans that reflect best practice in carbon sequestration / storage potential	Current actions in Countryside Site Management Plans	All Countryside Site Management Plans have actions that reflect best practice in carbon sequestration / storage potential	2025	Two planned updates scheduled for 2023 are still in progress. Measures will be included to lower carbon footprints and incorporate Climate Emergency positive actions through site management prescriptions and Ranger actions.	
6.1e	Implement actions in revised ELC Countryside Site Management Plans to ensure countryside sites / natural habitats are in prime condition to sequester and store carbon; subject to the appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment	ELC Countryside Site Management Plans	Countryside Service; partners; volunteers	Condition of Countryside Sites indicator	Baseline Condition has been established for all relevant sites	Increased Condition of Countryside Sites indicator score; countryside sites / natural habitats are in prime condition to sequester and store carbon	2025	Management plans set out actions to ensure habitats are well managed. to ensure resilience, enhancement of biodiversity, and optimise carbon sequestration and storage where appropriate. Rangers tasked with managing access and habitats to a high standard across a wide range of Countryside sites to agreed policies and procedures.	
6.1f	Produce an updated Biodiversity Action Plan to tackle the Ecological Emergency	Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Service	Production of updated Biodiversity Action Plan		Updated Biodiversity Action Plan published	2022	The East Lothian Biodiversity Partnership was reconvened in Autumn 2023 with the specific aim of progressing an update of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The Partnership includes both internal and external partners, including relevant statutory bodies, environmental non-government organisations, specialist naturalist groups, community representatives and ELC colleagues. The Partnership is currently identifying locally important priorities for action to tackle the nature emergency which align with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy delivery plan and other broader environmental outcomes including climate change adaptation & flood resilience.	
6.1g	Implement the Biodiversity Priorities in the East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan across East Lothian	Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Service; partners; volunteers	As per Biodiversity Action Plan			Ongoing / 2025	Remains ongoing. Key successes this year include: - Our Agri-Environment Climate Scheme funding application was successful to support the conservation grazing programme at Barns Ness, North Berwick Law	

							<p>& Traprain Law. The impact of this was monitored in 2023 by Countryside staff and volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sea Buckthorn management at Gullane & Yellowcraig to support the recovery of Sand Dune habitat. This was funded through the Nature Restoration Fund direct allocation. - Creation of new ponds at Barns Ness to support wading birds - Completion of the Levenhall Links restoration which included the creation of new wetlands for waders & an invertebrate meadow. <p>Rangers, with the support of Seasonal Rangers, undertook species monitoring at countryside sites to increase the understanding of biodiversity and contribute to national monitoring schemes. This included butterfly transects, bird surveys, and Eider monitoring.</p>		
6.1h	Naturalise amenity grassland to enhance local biodiversity, improve natural habitats and support wildlife	Biodiversity Action Plan	Countryside Service; volunteers	% of amenity grassland naturalised		10% of amenity grassland naturalised	2022	<p>Ongoing – we continue to progress this. New opportunities are being taken wherever possible, including working with local community groups to plant wildflower areas and identifying opportunities to re-wild areas. Grassland management continues at Countryside sites including Gullane Bents, Longniddry Bents, areas at Aberlady Bay, Yellowcraig and Levenhall Links, using the cut & lift machinery purchased through Nature Restoration Funding 2021/22 allocation.</p> <p>Areas of amenity grassland have been identified and relaxed in most communities. During 2023 Amenity Services undertook a Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project, with funding via Greenspace Scotland from the Scottish allocation of the Levelling Up Parks Fund provided to the Scottish Government by the UK Government (report and action plan on ‘Improving Nature Networks for East Lothian’s Communities’ is on the Council's website) which identified areas for biodiversity enhancements in our parks & greenspaces that are supported by the public. This included wildflower meadow areas. We continue to implement these across our communities and to raise awareness through publicity & promotion and signage on site.</p>	

6.1i	Protect the status of designated sites, and enhance the natural resource (particularly woodland, saltmarsh, peatland and other carbon rich soils which function in carbon sequestration), working with national partners	Biodiversity Action Plan, LDP, Green Networks Strategy SPG	Countryside Service; partners	As per national site condition monitoring indicators	Baseline established as per national site condition monitoring indicators	As per national site condition monitoring indicators	Ongoing / 2025	<p>The Countryside Ranger Service continue to manage designated sites where owned/managed by the Council, including much of the coastline (part of the Firth of Forth SPA & SSSI). This was supported in 2023 by Seasonal Rangers (funded through the Better Places Fund). Management seeks to conserve, restore and enhance habitats to increase their resilience to climate change and carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Officer worked with Planning colleagues, Scottish Wildlife Trust & The Wildlife Information Centre to develop a monitoring programme for our Local Biodiversity Sites to better understand their current condition and identify management opportunities to enhance these sites.</p> <p>Countryside Officers & Rangers attended oil spill response training which included consideration of such an event on our internationally designated coastline.</p>		
6.1j	Woodland creation / enhancement, native tree planting and hedgerow planting in and around our communities (in appropriate locations) to offset the carbon emissions and traffic pollution in urban areas	Green Networks Strategy SPG; OSS; Forestry & Woodland Strategy; LDP	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Strategy & Development; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners	Areas of native woodland planted; number of native urban/street trees planted	As per ELC Tree Management (Amenity Services) baseline	Increased areas of woodland in and around towns; increased numbers of urban/street trees	Ongoing / 2025	<p>Ongoing. We continue to take opportunities to expand urban green network and tree planting opportunities. Various tree planting initiatives have been underway, including Queen's Green Canopy tree planting in our communities and 'TreeTime East Lothian' initiative, which is ongoing, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. We are also undertaking further tree planting as part of our 'Nature Networks' project in our parks & greenspaces, which is ongoing.</p> <p>The Countryside Ranger Service have undertaken native tree planting, funded by the Nature Restoration Fund direct allocation including hedgerow creation in North Berwick and tree planting in Levenhall Links.</p>		
6.1k	Work with farmers and landowners to maximise carbon storage potential of land-use by planting of woodland or individual trees; peatland restoration and conservation projects; wetland creation; carbon sequestration, working with national agencies	Biodiversity Action Plan; Green Networks Strategy	Countryside Service; national and local partners	National indicators; implementation of conservation projects working in partnership	As per national indicators	As per national indicators, Conservation projects implemented working in partnership	Ongoing	Continue to work with the East Lothian Climate Forest project team and to progress. Countryside Services & the Landscape team work with Scottish Forestry & landowners to support tree planting on private land		
6.1l	Undertake projects to improve and encourage		Sport, Countryside &	Number of local biodiversity	As per Wildlife	Increased number of local biodiversity	Ongoing	Funding from Scottish Government (Nature Restoration Fund) has supported the delivery of		

	biodiversity & wildlife and enhance natural habitats in and around our communities and urban areas, including managing amenity greenspace for biodiversity / pollinators, riverside habitats, grasslands	Biodiversity Action Plan; OSS	Leisure; the Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC); partners; volunteers	projects supported; records / surveys of urban wildlife	Information Centre records; Biodiversity Action Plan	projects supported; increased records of urban wildlife		<p>projects to enhance biodiversity including sand dune restoration, woodland management and wetland creation.</p> <p>During 2023 Amenity Services undertook a Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project, with funding via Greenspace Scotland from the Scottish allocation of the Levelling Up Parks Fund provided to the Scottish Government by the UK Government (report and action plan on 'Improving Nature Networks for East Lothian's Communities' is on the Council's website) which identified areas for biodiversity enhancements in our parks & greenspaces that are supported by the public.</p> <p>The Nature Networks project sought to identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancements across our urban greenspaces to diversify habitats and support connectivity. Projects were thereafter undertaken including changes in grassland management, tree planting, wildflower meadow creation and bulb planting.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Officer and Countryside Rangers have further supported community projects to enhance biodiversity including participating in a BioBlitz at the East Lothian Community Hospital, working with Climate Action East Linton and LiL to deliver local nature networks.</p>	
6.1m	The Council's Countryside Ranger Service to interpret / educate / raise awareness of climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration as part of their remit	ELC Countryside Ranger Service Roles and Remit	ELC Countryside Ranger Service	Inclusion and implementation of interpretation / education / awareness-raising about climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration in ELCRS remit	Currently undertaken as required / when opportunities arise	Inclusion of interpretation / education / awareness-raising about climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration in ELCRS remit and being implemented	2022	Staff have undergone climate literacy training and share learnings during interpretation, group sessions and education groups where applicable. Message delivered during events with both adults and children through formal and informal education events. The rangers delivered a total of 20 events across East Lothian in 2023.	
6.1n	Work in partnership to look after the marine environment, including East Lothian's coast and beaches (e.g., beach cleans), including the responsible use and enjoyment of the coast	Countryside Site Management Plans	ELC Countryside Ranger Service; partners; volunteers	Actions in Countryside Site Management Plans; number of beach cleans / promotional events etc.	As per actions in Countryside Site Management Plans	As per actions in Countryside Site Management Plans, maintain & increase numbers of beach clean events /	Ongoing	ELC Countryside staff regularly coordinate staff and volunteers to undertake coastal clean-ups. Following just one extreme swell event, approximately 300 bags of litter have so far been removed from East Lothian beaches by rangers following clean-ups by Countryside Volunteers, members of the public and landowners. On top of this they have also removed over 200 creels	

						promotional events etc. as appropriate		<p>off beaches after recent storms. This is in addition to the usual litter picks and beach cleans we undertake. We have also created litter picking station at several beaches, where members of the public can help and leave bags for us to uplift.</p> <p>Assistance has also been provided with a sea grass establishment trial.</p> <p>Messages relating to responsible access and 'leaving no trace' delivered as core part of Ranger duties, as well as through Social Media channels, to support enjoyment of the coast and countryside and encourage responsible use of the outdoors.</p>		
6.1o	Investigate the impacts of increasing recreational pressures on East Lothian's coast, including recreational disturbance to habitats and wildlife, and the cumulative impacts		Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Economic Development; partners; Planning Service	Production of study into impacts of increasing recreational pressures on East Lothian's coast		Production of study into impacts of increasing recreational pressures on East Lothian's coast, to inform future management	2025	<p>Countryside Services are working with the RSPB to take forward a recreational impacts study and are currently seeking funding for this work, based on the brief previously produced in 2021. This would seek to coordinate a study across all local authority areas around the Firth of Forth with the aim of identifying mitigation measures that could be undertaken across authority boundaries.</p> <p>Recreational disturbance continues to be monitored on an ad hoc basis by Countryside Rangers, supported by Seasonal Rangers during Summer 2023. Rangers engage with visitors where appropriate if observed to be disturbing wildlife and signage/interpretation is in place at particularly sensitive sites (e.g., where designated as part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area for wading birds) to recognise the importance of this wildlife and encourage responsible access. The Rangers & Access Officer also undertake path repairs with the volunteer Path Wardens and identify new opportunities for path creation to manage recreational impact on habitats.</p>		
Key Priority Area 2: Climate Adaptation and the Natural Environment										
6.2a	Promote and facilitate the adaptation of the natural environment by enhancing natural habitats and landscape features e.g., coastal dune systems, saltmarsh; subject to the appropriate Habitat Regulations Assessment	Countryside Site Management Plans; Green Networks Strategy	Countryside Service; partners	As per Countryside Site Management Plans; Biodiversity Action Plan	As per Countryside Site Management Plans; Biodiversity Action Plan	As per Countryside Site Management Plans; Biodiversity Action Plan	Ongoing	<p>Coastal grassland management continues to protect and enhance dune systems, in line with site management plans. Dune restoration was undertaken at two sites (Yellowcraig/Gullane) as part of the 22/23 Nature Restoration Fund grant allocation.</p> <p>Countryside Service supported the Senior Flood Officer to submit funding bids to undertake feasibility studies that include the use of nature based solutions to address future coastal flood risk.</p>		

6.2b	Work with landowners to create connected blue networks and progress natural flood management, natural river flood protection measures / floodwater storage by improving and creating natural riverine habitats, including freshwater marshland, wetlands and Sustainable Drainage System opportunities	Flood Risk Management Strategy; Flood Protection studies; Green Networks Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; Countryside Service; landowners	Opportunities are taken to work with landowners to improve blue networks and natural flood management; Progression of natural river flood protection measures	As per Flood Risk Management Strategy; preliminary studies underway	Increased blue network connectivity and areas of natural flood management identified; natural river flood protection measures and habitat improvements progressing	2025	All flood studies identified within the Forth Estuary LFRMP will aim to provide actions that provides the most sustainable set of actions to mitigate flood risk, this assessment/option appraisal will include natural flood management. All flood protection schemes and studies consider climate change within their option appraisal..		ACTION NOW COMBINED WITH ACTION 6.2E - Cabinet approved, Jan 2021
6.2c	Plant trees and hedgerows around urban areas to create natural areas of shade and shelter	Forestry & Woodland Strategy; Biodiversity Action Plan; Green Networks Strategy	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other community partners	Length of hedgerows planted; number of urban/street trees planted	As per ELC Tree Management (Amenity Services) baseline	Increased length of hedgerows planted; increased numbers of urban/street trees	2025	Ongoing. Tree planting and hedgerows incorporated into new developments where appropriate. We produced a Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian, which has further identified suitable areas for planting both trees and hedgerows in urban areas and will inform further Climate Forest tree planting locations. 'TreeTime East Lothian' tree planting initiative is underway to undertake tree planting in our communities, working with partners Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust. We are also undertaking further tree planting as part of our 'Nature Networks' project (see above) in our parks & greenspaces, which is ongoing. 600 hedgerow trees were planted in North Berwick Glen in January 2023, as part of the 2022/23 Nature Restoration Fund grant allocation. Tree & hedgerow planting continues at Levenhall Links, working with the Friends of Levenhall, volunteers and the local community.		
6.2d	Continue to control invasive species	Countryside Management Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; partners	Eradication of non-native invasive plant species	As per management of invasive species	Work towards eradication of non-native invasive plant species	Ongoing / 2025	Rangers undertake removal of Piri-piri-bur, Rosa rugosa, Himalayan Balsam and Sea Buckthorn where appropriate from countryside sites to maintain natural habitats. Countryside staff are working in partnership with neighbouring landowners at some sites to encourage and support INNS control. Community volunteer groups in partnership with ELC continue to control Giant Hogweed alongside the River Tyne. This project has now expanded to survey Hogweed and other invasive species along the River Esk. Amenity services continue to control hogweed along the Esk.		
6.2e										ACTION DELETED IN JAN 2021

6.2f	Incorporate into LDP and implement the climate change adaptation measures for new developments as set out in East Lothian's Green Network Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	LDP; Green Networks SPG	Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure	As set out in Green Network Strategy SPG	As set out in Green Network Strategy SPG	Development of adaptation measures as set out in Green Network Strategy SPG	Ongoing / 2025	NPF4 has been approved by the Scottish Government and is now part of the development plan. 8. Aim to combat flooding through natural environment measures: this is included within NPF Policy 3 Biodiversity section (bii) which requires nature-based solutions to be integrated into new development wherever feasible. We consider this would apply to flooding. 9. Protect key green network assets when planning and providing flood/erosion defences. The designers of Musselburgh Flood Protection scheme are considering how to incorporate key green network assets around the Esk into the scheme. 10. Consider water management holistically, including implementing multi-functional SUDS. NPF4 Policy 22 on flood risk and water management c(ii) requires that all proposals should manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing blue [1] green infrastructure. All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer. This will be implemented through planning decisions. 11. Consider climate change when designing landscaping schemes and tree planting. NPF4 Policy 2 on climate adaptation says, "Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change." This will be implemented through planning decisions. 12. Consider the use of green walls and green roofs in urban areas to address climatic changes. NPF Policy 3 (a) and (bii) on encouraging nature-based solutions could encourage this. 13. Design public realm in urban areas to create comfortable environments in a changing climate, for example places and routes that offer shelter and shade. This was included in the Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG.		
6.2g	Reinforce path networks alongside rivers by willow setting (a natural riverbank stabilisation technique with green network benefits for biodiversity)	Core Paths Plan	Countryside Team; volunteers	Use this technique for core paths improvements / stabilisation wherever possible	Already underway	Continue to use this technique for core paths improvements / stabilisation wherever possible	Ongoing / 2025	Ongoing where feasible.		

Outcome 7: East Lothian's Communities are places encouraging a Low Carbon Lifestyle and are prepared for the effects of Climate Change.

Key Priority Area 1: Our Communities and Placemaking

7.1a	Work in partnership with our communities to support our communities towards becoming Net Zero Carbon, including enabling community initiatives for carbon cuts, sequestration and adaptation, and delivering improvements to the public realm in towns	Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan, once published	SECCO; Strategy & Development; Connected Communities; partners including Scottish Government	To be confirmed by Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan	To be confirmed by Scottish Government's updated Climate Change Plan	Reduction in Carbon Emissions	Annual	The Council has supported the East Lothian Climate Action Network to secure funding for a Climate Hub in East Lothian. The Network is currently in the process of recruiting new staff to set up and run the hub. The Council continues to communicate closely and support the Hub to be created where feasible. The Hub is also an important part of realising the Scottish Government's Net Zero Nation Strategy.		
7.1b	Implement the Green Network Strategy to ensure connectivity, accessibility and enhancement of green spaces and green networks, including native tree planting / hedgerow planting in urban areas, wild spaces for nature, linked with blue networks and Sustainable Drainage Systems	Green Networks Strategy SPG; LDP; Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Planning Service; Strategy & Development	Greenspace connectivity in our settlements and new developments; 'Quality of Urban Greenspace' environmental indicator: Landscape Audit Management System (LAMS) score	Current LAMS score for our urban greenspaces as per OSS	All settlements have connected green networks close to where people live; LAMS score increasing	Ongoing	Ongoing. We continue to progress delivering actions in our communities and take opportunities wherever we can. The Green Network Strategy, having been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, should be referred to by Development Management officers in deciding planning applications. Following the Council's declaration of a Nature Emergency we will be reviewing the role of the Green Networks Working Group and relevant strategies across Council service areas.		
7.1c	Ensure that Core Path network, active travel network and wider path network are integrated and connect residential areas (including new developments) with settlement amenities, destinations, parks/open space, transport hubs; path networks in and around settlements should include shorter recreational circuits; paths should be constructed for climate resilience (e.g., porous surfaces)	Core Paths Plan; LTS / ATIP; LDP; Developer Contributions Framework	Outdoor Access; Countryside Service; Roads Services; Planning Service	Length of Core Paths and length of promoted active travel routes; path and active travel connectivity	Current length of Core Paths and length of promoted active travel routes	Increased length of paths & active travel routes; particularly in urban/semi-urban areas; increased path & active travel connectivity	ongoing	A new bridge has been built across the St Laurence House Burn connecting the new housing development at Letham to Burnside. An informal route for the right of way has been agreed with the developers as part of this project. Work continues to try to establish a link between the new development at Saltcoats and Gullane.		
7.1d	Ensure connectivity of residential areas with local	LTS	Roads Services; Transport	As per LTS	As per LTS	As per LTS	ongoing			

	sustainable transport modes, including buses / bus stops, to reduce reliance on the car; maps of routes available to new residents to encourage active travel		Services; Planning Service; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners					The new Journey Hubs will raise the profile of public transport services and will serve as focal points for community information and sustainable travel maps. Spokes Cycling Maps are routinely made available to community groups and members of the public at events where the Active Travel team engages with the general public.		
7.1e	Implement the objectives of the Open Space Strategy to ensure Quality Open Space (amenity open space), which functions in climate change mitigation and adaptation	Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure	'Quality of Urban Greenspace' Landscape Audit Management System (LAMS) score		All amenity open space at 60% quality standard; all parks at 70% quality standard; maintain and improve LAMS scores	ongoing	Ongoing. We continue to implement the Open Space Strategy and achieve these objectives, as evidenced by successful 'In Bloom' entrants for example. The Open Space Strategy is currently under review and work has commenced on our next Open Space Strategy, which will include key outcomes and actions in relation to tackling the Climate and Nature Emergencies, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.		
7.1f	Vacant or Derelict Sites: Encourage the local community to identify vacant or derelict sites and work in partnership to improve these to the benefit of the appearance of the local area, biodiversity and potentially community growing projects	LDP; Vacant and Derelict Land Survey; Open Space Strategy (OSS); Area Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Connected Communities; Area Partnerships; partners				2025 / ongoing	Community gardens promoted and supported by some of the APs, some also funded by our One Council Partnership Fund. Not many Council-owned vacant sites, although community groups have come forward interested in progressing this at some locations and we are working to support them where possible and feasible. Demand for community gardens, allotments/ food growing. East Lothian Friendly Food Network will be helpful to promote these opportunities, encourage healthy eating and reduce food waste.		
7.1g	Support community led regeneration, including bringing empty properties back into use, to improve town centres and rural areas	Local Housing Strategy (LHS)	Housing Strategy; Economic Development				2023	Dunbar CARS launched 2023 to support fabric repair, empty properties, and fuel poverty/carbon emission in Dunbar TC..		
7.1h	Support community initiatives such as cooking classes, community kitchens, food growing, community entertainment to reduce the need to travel and support vibrant and sustainable communities	Area Plans	Area Partnerships: Connected Communities Food Friendly East Lothian network established	Community initiatives supported by the Council		Number of community initiatives supported by the Council	Ongoing	ELFFN now well established. Promotes food hygiene training and good practice in delivering food projects, e.g., breakfast clubs, pantries etc. EL Foodbank seeing huge increase in demand. Discussions with NB Kindness Co-op to develop as an independent constituted charity to access external funds. New Musselburgh community pantry run by volunteers well established, based at MECLC.		

7.1i	Work with partners to promote sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint of local sporting activities in our communities		Sports Development; partner organisations	Number of sports clubs implementing 'sustainability statements'		Increasing number of local sports clubs implement 'sustainability statements'	Ongoing	'Kit Stop' remains in place with items distributed and in use. Examples of sports club sustainability coming forward with further discussions required through CSH forums.	
7.1j	Awareness-raising campaign aimed at homeowners / occupiers to enhance garden ground to tackle climate change mitigation, adaptation and sequestration, and enhance biodiversity (including the planting of native trees / appropriate shrubs; provision of food growing space / fruit trees); encourage homeowners not to replace garden ground with hard-standing or artificial turf		SECCO; partners	Publicity campaign implemented	No publicity campaign in place	Publicity campaign implemented to raise awareness	2025	During 2023 Amenity Services undertook a Nature Networks in Parks and Greenspaces project, which identified areas for biodiversity enhancements in our parks & greenspaces that are supported by the public. This included communication and publicity including a public consultation to promote Nature Networks, including development of a brand/logo and web page on the Council's website. The web page includes suggestions of ways that individuals can help with nature recovery in their own garden/greenspace. We continue to raise awareness through publicity & promotion and signage on site.	
7.1k	Work with partners to take opportunities to improve water management, including rainwater harvesting and grey water harvesting, and creation and enhancement of blue infrastructure for both carbon off setting and natural flood management	LDP; SUDS Guidance; Green Network Guidance	Amenity Services; Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure	Development Proposals / Pre-Application advice; open space enhancement	LDP Delivery Programme, Open Space Strategy	Number of watercourses enhanced, or SuDS implemented in an environmentally sympathetic manner	2025	Countryside Service continues to support the delivery of Restoration Forth including the planting of Seagrass in Spring 2023. Two ponds were created at Barns Ness, funded by the Nature Restoration Fund 2022/23 grant allocation to enhance a naturally wet area. Ongoing discussions with adjacent landowner to improve water management across the site. Amenity Services are looking at opportunities to create and enhance biodiversity habitats including blue infrastructure and wetland habitats in parks and greenspaces through our Nature Networks project. Public consultation identified that respondents were supportive of seeing more freshwater habitats and presence of water within parks and greenspaces, including raingardens, bog gardens and wetlands. These will be progressed in the coming years where possible. Blue/green network and blue/green infrastructure enhancements under consideration by internal Green Network Working Group, including natural flood management opportunities. All SuDS Designs in Planning Applications are assessed for compliance with Council's SuDS Design SPG. Countryside Rangers supporting the delivery of Restoration Forth, which aims to restore and enhance seagrass meadows at Tynninghame.	

Key Priority Area 2: Planning for New Developments										
7.2a	Enforce Planning Condition for all relevant development proposals to report on the actions to be taken to reduce the Carbon Emissions from the build and from the completed development, including the provision of renewable technology and infrastructure for new car charging points	Planning Condition	Planning Service; Building Standards	Reports submitted on actions to reduce carbon emissions from new developments		All relevant development proposals to submit reports on the actions to be taken to reduce carbon emissions	2020 / ongoing	Where possible, the Planning Authority encourage applicants to submit their carbon emission reduction reports as part of their planning application. Planning officers continue to seek to ensure that our carbon emission reduction condition is complied with and would consider whether it was expedient to take enforcement action should the condition be breached.		
7.2b	Progress embedding the Just Transition to Net Zero into the planning process through our next Local Development Plan for example by pursuing low carbon heating from the groundwater heat source from our coalfields, and Climate Resilient new developments adapted for future climate change impacts	Next LDP; National Planning Framework	Planning Service; national partners	Just Transition to Net Zero is being embedded into next LDP		Progress embedding Just Transition to Net Zero into next LDP	2025	The East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in September 2018. Consultation is taking place on the Local Heat and Energy Strategy. NPF4 includes policy to support heat networks and LDP will include appropriate policy and spatial strategy to reflect the LHES once adopted. They may include use of heat from mine water. The Planning Policy and Strategy team is completing a work package on integrating climate change issues into the LDP.		
7.2c	Implement the Local Development Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance on Green Networks, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), open space, allotments, active travel and sustainable transport connectivity in new developments, Travel Plans for residential and non-residential developments, green corridors for people and wildlife; encourage developers to facilitate the restoration of degraded	LDP and Supplementary Planning Guidance; Green Network Strategy SPG; Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG (in prep); Open Space Strategy	Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure	As per LDP policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance	As per Local Development Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance	As per LDP policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance	Ongoing to 2025	Ongoing. NPF4 contains policy on Green Networks, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), open space, allotments, active travel and sustainable transport connectivity in new developments, Travel Plans for residential and non-residential developments, green corridors for people and wildlife, blue infrastructure. This will be implemented through planning decisions as part of the development plan.		

	watercourses, where possible									
7.2d	Include key elements of Design Standards for New Housing Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Green Network Strategy in next LDP. Until such time implement SPG in new development.	LDP	Planning Service	Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG prepared and implemented	Draft produced in 2018/19	Design Standards for New Housing Areas SPG implemented	2020 / ongoing	As Dec 2022: Ongoing, Central Scotland Green Network remains as a national development in NPF4 (as laid before Parliament). There is reference to Green Networks and green and blue infrastructure throughout the document. NPF4 has now been approved.		
7.2e	Explore Net Zero town of the future, including by pursuing low carbon heating from the groundwater heat source from our coalfields, and a Climate Resilient new town that is adapted for future climate change impacts	City Deal	Development Planning; partners				2025	The Blindwells Business Case is under development as a basis to explore if and how a Blindwells expansion may be unlocked. A Cockszie Technical Masterplan is in development. Any allocation here will be a matter for the review of the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018. In terms of any potential Blindwells expansion, renewable energy and heat studies are being developed by Hargreaves and Taylor Wimpey. The Council's mine water geothermal feasibility study for this area focuses on Cockszie and is now complete. The Council's study has revealed two potential abstraction sites at / for Cockszie, with scope for two District Energy Networks, in addition to the potential at Blindwells. Together the energy opportunity in that area is circa 6-9MW (circa 2.5-3.5MW at Cockszie and 5-6MW at Blindwells). Hydrological connectivity between Blindwells and Cockszie is a high probability, so too the need to agree how to share heat and off take. Discussion with Hargreaves, the Coal Authority, Zero Waste Scotland and SEPA have highlighted this interrelationship to ensure a wiliness to consider abstraction from two locations in same mine block area, and associated issues. Key issue for the Council is to consider the design of DENs and any scope for ELC off-takers for both sites, and to engage on associated business case development. The Cockszie Technical masterplan, due to be concluded Summer 2024, will incorporate these potential opportunities as abasis to further develop the proposition.		

7.2f	Explore the opportunity to include a policy requirement for developments to plant native woodland to mitigate against climate change and off-set emissions	Next LDP	Planning Service; Sport, Countryside & Leisure; national partners	Work to inform new policy development			2025	This will be considered during the development of the Local Development Plan and the Tree and Woodland Strategy for East Lothian. NPF4 Policy 1 requires significant weight to be placed on climate change mitigation and adaptation issues. Policy 3 on biodiversity notes that for national, major and EIA development assessment of effects is required which will be suitably mitigated according to the mitigation hierarchy, including enhancement of nature networks within and beyond the development. This is likely to result in woodland creation in relation to development being easier to achieve. The Tree and Woodland Strategy may include requirement to offset carbon stored in trees or woodland that is removed, as well as their replacement with a younger tree, as this does not have the same climate mitigation impact as a mature tree.		
7.2g	Evaluate our next LDP with a view to achieving the Net Zero Carbon emissions target by assessing development location in relation to transport, preventing loss of trees and topsoil areas, and woodland planting proposals linked to development	Next LDP	Planning Service; partners	Evaluation process progressing			2025	This will be considered in due course through the LDP process.		
Key Priority Area 3: Local Food Growing										
7.3a	Prepare and implement a Local Food Growing Strategy for East Lothian, to ensure that allotment sites in East Lothian are of a sufficient quantity and quality to meet the needs and aspirations of local residents, including in new developments; support and promote local food growing initiatives		Amenity Services	Preparation of Local Food Growing Strategy		Local Food Growing Strategy implemented	2022	Local food growing initiatives are supported in our communities by the Area Partnerships, and community-led initiatives are underway across some communities. Lack of staff capacity has impacted on timescales for development of the Local Food Growing Strategy. We have a bank of existing allotments that we maintain but recognise the need for further / additional opportunities for food growing. We are always seeking to identify suitable sites for allotments and food growing spaces and we are committed to achieving that through the Food Growing Strategy and the delivery of our next Local Development Plan.		
7.3b	Plant and manage community orchards / community fruit growing in partnership with communities, including planting apple trees alongside core paths –	Local Food Growing Strategy (in prep); Area Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Area Partnerships; communities	Number of apple trees / fruit trees planted and managed		Increased number of apple trees / fruit trees planted and managed	2025	Ongoing. Encouraged and supported by Amenity Services. Investigating opportunities for additional orchard / fruit tree planting through Climate Forest tree planting and where local communities come forward with proposals.		

	'Apple Core Paths' – for community benefit								
7.3c	Investigate options for working in partnership with our communities to bring areas of suitable urban land into use for local food growing, including private gardens and vacant land	Local Food Growing Strategy (in prep)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; Area Partnerships; communities	Progressing options		Progressing options to bring areas of suitable urban land into use for local food growing	2025	Local food growing initiatives are supported in our communities by the Area Partnerships, and community-led initiatives are underway across some communities. Land availability for new allotment sites is an issue, as much of the potentially suitable land is in private ownership, however we are always seeking to identify suitable sites for allotments and food growing spaces and we are committed to achieving that through a Food Growing Strategy and the delivery of our next Local Development Plan.	
7.3d	Work with partners to investigate opportunities for implementing a distribution network for surplus food growing production		Amenity Services; local partners	Progressing opportunities		Progressing opportunities for food distribution network	2025	Fareshare up and running linked to many community food projects - will also be linked with ELC's food growing strategy when this is developed.	
Key Priority Area 4: Awareness Raising and Engagement									
7.4a	Explore options to identify how best to engage and ensure representation across all sectors of East Lothian's community, to involve our communities in the local planning of our Climate Emergency Response (e.g., Citizens' Assembly; Climate Change Forum / Network)		CCPMG; SECCO; external partners	Options appraisal involving all sectors of East Lothian's community		Appropriate citizens' engagement forum is established and functioning	2022	The East Lothian Climate Action Network has successfully managed to secure funding from the Scottish Government this year to set up a Climate Hub in 2024.	
7.4b	Produce a Communications Plan setting out our awareness-raising and engagement proposals		SECCO; Corporate Communications	Production of Communications Plan		Communications Plan produced and implemented	2022	Several actions are being taken to strengthen the internal communication and engagement on climate change: a 'Green Corner' has been formed in ELC's internal staff newsletter inform, engagement presentations are part of the staff induction and are delivered quarterly on the 'Welcome to the Council' sessions, Officers in the Climate Change Planning & Monitoring Group are regularly updated on the latest climate projects by colleagues and external key activities by IPCC and UK CCC, and E-Learning on the	

								climate emergency is available for all staff on LearnPro and Carbon Literacy Training sessions are being delivered regularly. The Carbon Literacy Training requires staff to make individual and group pledges on climate action.	
7.4c	Develop an East Lothian Climate Change Charter, setting out what the Council will do and what communities / individuals can do to tackle climate change and reduce emissions		SECCO; Corporate Policy & Improvement	Production of East Lothian Climate Change Charter	Currently promoting the #make a difference theme	Publication of East Lothian Climate Change Charter	2022	Rather than a charter, the Council has worked on updating its climate change website to include tips for communities and businesses on climate action. The latter is also complemented by the new Council website 'Net Zero for Business'. There is an opportunity to make the Council's climate emergency website more user friendly and create a Climate Change Charter with suitable graphics if external funding is secured. Good examples of Council websites that include a form of Charter are City of Edinburgh and Dundee City Council. A next step could, for example, be to reach out to these and use learnings to secure relevant funding pots and deliver.	
7.4d	Support and help to promote national campaigns, including the Scottish Government's 'Greener Scotland' campaign, to consider the carbon footprint of our everyday lifestyle and behaviour choices		SECCO; Corporate Communications ; partners	Participation in national promotional campaigns; social media engagement	Currently participate in Scotland's Climate Week, Earth Hour etc.	Participation in national promotional campaigns; social media engagement	Ongoing to 2025	ELC helped promoting Scotland's Climate Week on social media September - October this year.	
7.4e	Work in partnership with Community Councils, Area Partnerships, TRAs and other local groups and organisations to encourage and assist all areas of East Lothian to become involved in taking forward sustainability and promoting a low carbon lifestyle in their local area	Area Plans: Community Council plans etc.	SECCO; Strategy & Development; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other partners; Corporate Policy & Improvement	Actions incorporated into Area Plans and other community plans	Several Area Plans already include actions to tackle climate change	All Area Plans and other community plans include sustainability / plans to tackle climate change	Ongoing to 2025	The Sustainability & Climate Change Officer continues supporting Area Partnerships to integrate climate action in their Area Plans. A climate emergency workshop was held with Musselburgh AP in June 2023 and a climate conversation evening with Preston Seaton Gosford AP in October 2023 for these purposes. Active travel and sustainability a priority for APs, reflected in Area Plans. Connected Communities teams working with Roads colleagues to identify external funding to assist in delivering projects (noting Roads Capital budgets to APs have been cut this year - future provision unclear)	
7.4f	Set up a network of 'Green Champions' in our communities to help		SECCO; Waste Services; CCPMG;	Network of community 'Green	Many local groups etc. already	Network of community 'Green Champions' set up	2022	Several sustainability community groups are operation in East Lothian: Tranent Wombles, On the Move PSG, On the Move NBC, Sustaining Musselburgh, Sustaining NBC and	

	promote sustainability, raise awareness and encourage engagement with the move to a low carbon lifestyle		community partners	Champions' set up	taking this agenda forward				Sustaining Dunbar. The East Lothian Action Network also managed to secure funding this year from the Scottish Government to set up a local Climate Hub in 2024. East Lothian's Cycle Forum and Accessibility Forum are also active in encouraging cycling and access to nature in the county. The Council's Connected Communities Team and the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer are regularly in touch with the groups, networks and forums to support where feasible.	
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7.4g	Set up a dedicated page on the Council's website to function as a central information point for directing people to information on the transition to a low carbon lifestyle and a Net Zero East Lothian; increase awareness of the impacts of climate change and what individuals / homeowners / employers can do to adapt	Climate Change Strategy; Resilient Communities initiative	SECCO; Corporate Communications; partners	Central information point set up on Council's website	Climate change information & links currently on Council website	Central information point set up on Council's website	2022	Action Completed. Several websites are available: the Climate Emergency website for general information to the public, the Net Zero for Business website for local businesses in East Lothian, the On the Move site for advice on more sustainable travel in the county.	
7.4h	Undertake an awareness raising campaign to promote tackling climate change, reducing emissions and how everyone can #makeadifference ; including information provision and promoting behaviour change		SECCO; Corporate Communications	Awareness levels measured via Scottish Household Survey	74% of adults in 2018	Increasing levels of awareness	Ongoing to 2025	No campaign has been delivered in 2023. However, several other engagement events have taken place. For example, the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer held a climate emergency workshop with Musselburgh AP in June and a climate conversations evening with Preston Seaton Gosford AP in October. Climate Week was promoted to the public during September and October by the Council's Corporate Comms team. A campaign was also delivered as part of the East Lothian Nature Networks to encourage residents to join the Council in improving green spaces (from gardens to parks) for biodiversity.	
7.4i	Work with partners to provide information, training and support for residents, communities and businesses and share best practice to help inspire action across the county		CCPMG; SECCO; external partners	Awareness levels measured via Residents' Survey	74% of adults in 2018	Increasing levels of awareness	Ongoing to 2025	Net Zero for Business was launched in 2023 to share examples of climate action among local businesses. Sustainability community groups such as Sustaining Dunbar and Sustaining North Berwick are delivering regular climate cafes to raise local awareness. The East Lothian Climate Action Network is becoming more established and managed to secure funding from the Scottish Government to establish a local Climate Hub. The Council's Sustainability & Climate Change Officer continues to engage with	

								communities, delivering climate emergency workshops (e.g., Musselburgh AP in June 2023) or climate conversations (e.g., Preston Seaton Gosford AP in October 2023) to support literacy in climate change. Two staff members in the Connected Communities Services have also been trained in Carbon Literacy to support inspiration of low carbon living.	
7.4j	Community Events, Education and Training Programme: Continue to support the use of greenspaces and community meeting places by local groups and organisations for holding appropriate local events and activities, promote opportunities to encourage a sustainable lifestyle, undertake education and awareness-raising activities and training.	Open Space Strategy (OSS)	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; partners	Number of local events, training and initiatives; number of participants at events / training		Increased number of local events, training and initiatives; increased number of participants at events / training	Ongoing to 2025	Amenity Services continue to support community events and activities in our parks and greenspaces across our communities.	
7.4k	Community Involvement: Encourage and support the formation of local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups to support the enhancement of specific open space	Open Space Strategy (OSS); Countryside Site Management Plans	Sport, Countryside & Leisure; local groups; partners	Local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups underway	As per OSS and Countryside Site Management Plans	Local volunteer groups, such as "friends of" or "in bloom" groups underway and supported; as per OSS	Ongoing to 2025	'Rangers work with our volunteers and those from East Lothian Countryside Volunteers on a range of environmental enhancement and access projects. We have also created two new volunteer groups within East Lothian - these are in the Longniddry/Gullane and Tranent/Pencaitland/Ormiston areas. We also work with local businesses who offer a staff volunteering day a year. We continue to support 'In Bloom' groups and 'Friends Of' groups as required and actively support local groups involved with the EL Climate Action Network on natural heritage matters. ELCV work to enhance countryside sites and path networks which we work in partnership with.	
Key Priority Area 5: Climate Adaptation: Climate Ready Communities									
7.5a	Increase community and individual resilience	Resilient Communities network	Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; Connected Communities	Proportion of Community Councils with local Community Resilience Plans (currently 40% in 2018/19)	10% (2016/17)	75% (2022)	2022	On 2nd November The Emergency Planning & Risk Team held a workshop for all Resilient Communities SPOCs/Deputy SPOCs and Connected Community Managers, including a severe weather tabletop exercise, presentation on roles and responsibilities and guidance on how to produce their own Emergency Resilience Plans.	

7.5b	Set up a Climate Change Adaptation network for East Lothian, based upon the Resilient Communities network already established	Climate Change Strategy; Resilient Communities network	SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and other community partners	Establishment of a Climate Change Adaptation network for East Lothian	Resilient Communities network	Climate Change Adaptation network is set up for East Lothian	2022	The East Lothian Climate Action Network has successfully managed to secure funding from the Scottish Government.	
7.5c	Community Councils will be encouraged to elect Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) for Climate Change Adaptation		SECCO; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team; Connected Communities / Area Partnerships and others	Single Points of Contact (SPoCs) identified for Climate Change Adaptation		Every Community Council has a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for Climate Change Adaptation	2022	An engagement session was held with the Association of East Lothian Community Councils to address the importance of SPoCs as part of the community councils to address climate change adaptation. Further work is being carried out by the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer, Emergency Planning and Connected Communities to strengthen community resilience to climate change.	
7.5d	Work in partnership to support and assist our communities to prepare Climate Ready Response Plans for their area		SECCO; Connected Communities; Protective Services; Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Team	Climate Ready Response Plans in place for communities	Community Resilience Plans already in place in several communities	Climate Ready Response Plans in place for all communities	2022	So far, the Council's Sustainability & Climate Change has delivered a Climate Emergency workshop to North Berwick Coastal and Musselburgh AP to help integrating climate action in their Area Plans. A Climate Conversation evening was also held in collaboration with Connected Communities to Preston Seaton Gosford AP to deliver the same outcomes as the Climate Emergency Workshops.	
7.5e	Raise awareness and understanding of climate change impacts among East Lothian's communities, and improve capacity to respond to climate risks; work in partnership with local employers, landowners, voluntary groups, and community planning partners including Emergency Responders	Climate Change Strategy; Severe Weather Response Plan	SECCO; Connected Communities; partners including Adaptation Scotland, community planning partners	Climate Adaptation awareness-raising campaign / promotion; awareness levels among local population (measured in Residents' Survey)		Climate Adaptation awareness-raising campaign / promotion in place; awareness levels increasing among local population (measured in Residents' Survey)	Ongoing to 2025	A Capability Framework workshop was delivered in partnership with Adaptation Scotland to key Services in the Council. The process leading up to the workshop included interviews with 14 different services on their understanding and response to climate change adaptation and an engagement presentation to the Council Officers in the Climate Change Planning & Monitoring Group. The Capability Framework was completed together by staff participating in the workshop (ranging from Economic Development, IT, Environmental Health etc.). Further, an engagement presentation was held by the Sustainability & Climate Change Officer to East Lothian's Association of	

								Community Council. A Climate Emergency Workshop was delivered to Musselburgh AP, which included discussions on climate change adaptation, and an evening of Climate Conversations with the Preston Seaton Gosford AP was delivered jointly with Connected Communities, the Councils Sustainability & Climate Change Officer, Behaviour Change Roads Officer, and Nature Networks delivery Officer.	
7.5f	Progress the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme	Flood Risk Management Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; national & local partners	Progress implementation of Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme		Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme is progressed	Ongoing to 2025	<p>Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme is currently at Stage 4 - Outline Design.</p> <p>A number of public consultations have taken place in 2023, culminating in an exhibition in June 2023 which presented ELC's initial preferred outline design. This was attended by 900 residents with over 500 feedback forms filled in.</p> <p>ELC's Preferred Outline Design will be presented for approval, alongside a non-technical summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), at full Council in January 2024.</p> <p>If approval is gained, ELC will formally publish / notify the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme in March 2024; this triggers a period of 28 days whereby those affected can formally object.</p>	
7.5g	Progress the Haddington Flood Protection Scheme	Flood Risk Management Strategy	Structures & Flooding Team; national & local partners	Progress implementation of Haddington Flood Protection Scheme		Haddington Flood Protection Scheme is progressed	Ongoing to 2025	<p>A Natural Flood Management Report has been completed for Haddington.</p> <p>Progress of the Haddington FPS is dependent on funding mechanisms.</p>	