

**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 15 MARCH 2024**

**REPORT TITLE: Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (Action  
Plan) 2023: Update for 2024**

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

<b><u>Key Decision</u></b>	<b>No</b>
<b><u>Purpose of Report</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This report updates Committee on regional progress towards tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and seeks approval to update the action areas in the regional Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan (the Action Plan) for 2024/25 as set out in sections 24-39</li> </ul>	
<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>	
That Committee:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the progress on actions for the 2023 action plan – sections 6 -23, with detail in Appendix 2.</li> <li>Approve the approach to develop Corporate Carbon Management for the Combined Authority over the next 12 months – sections 26-31.</li> <li>Approve the updated action areas, and the enhanced focus on climate resilience and green infrastructure over the next 12 months – section 32-39.</li> </ol>	
<b><u>Reasons for recommendation</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Action Plan aligns with Combined and Unitary Authority motions in 2018-19 and 2020 relating to climate and ecological emergencies respectively.</li> <li>The Committee’s adoption of the first Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan in 2022 included biannual reporting and a yearly update. This report and appendices form this.</li> <li>Reporting on the Action Plan ensures the Committee continues to scrutinise West of England Mayoral Combined Authority action and regional progress in</li> </ul>	

addressing our declarations.

- Adopting a revised Action Plan ensures the region has a coherent strategy and meaningful actions to address climate change, and halt the decline in nature.
- The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is delivering significant capital projects. Embedding carbon accounting and management, and green infrastructure, will help ensure this delivery aligns with our climate and ecological emergency declarations.

### **Voting arrangements**

In order to be carried, a decision on this matter requires a majority of the members present and voting, such majority is to include the Metro Mayor. Each member present may cast one vote. If a vote is tied the decision is not carried. There is no casting vote. Co-opted members are not entitled to vote.

### **Publication Requirements**

For publication.

## **Background**

1. As a region, we have all declared climate and ecological emergencies. We have set ourselves 2030 ambitions for the West of England to be net zero, and to ensure that wildlife and the natural environment are in recovery with their decline halted. Both ambitions are very challenging and with timescales well ahead of national goals.
2. The Climate and Ecological Strategy & Action Plan (Action Plan) sets the regional approach to meeting these ambitions. It includes short-term actions for delivery each year, and medium-term actions needed to achieve longer term 2030 ambitions. It recognises – to achieve our long-term vision and goals – we need to be collaborating across all levels of government and the wider public sector, helping to catalyse and seek funding from the private sector, and empowering our residents and communities.
3. The Action Plan was first agreed in April 2022, and updated in March 2023, including commitments for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority to provide 6-monthly progress updates and an annual review of actions. The 6-monthly update was provided to Committee on 6 October. This report provides an update on each action and seeks agreement to update presentation of the Action Plan, consolidate or continue current actions and approve new actions for 2024/25.

## Key Considerations

4. The actions within the Action Plan, reported on within this Paper, are those the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is leading upon or involved in. We have already achieved some great successes, with much good work ongoing. However, our current progress towards tackling both the climate and nature crises in the region is significantly less than is required and it is clear we are not on track to meet our 2030 ambitions. This is driven by funding and knowledge gaps. We propose additional action areas within this update to close some of the gaps and will be developing a scaled-up proposal for June committee.
5. Appendix 2– Action Updates provides an update on each action. These are split into 6 themes, with progress highlights included in the body of this paper. We have also indicated an impact of each action and the degree of control the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has over the outcome. We aim to build on these qualitative assessments for future updates by providing more quantitative information where possible.
6. Significant progress has been made in the following areas:

### Transport

7. Improvements to our rail network are part of our approach to decarbonising the way the region travels. Works to open a new station at Ashley Down in 2024 are progressing well. A new footbridge was successfully installed at the station over Christmas 2023. Further development funding was approved to enable South Gloucestershire Council to contract Network Rail to undertake detailed design development works for a new station at Charfield.
8. A total of 16 walking, cycling and wheeling delivery schemes are in progress. Working with Bristol City Council, we have successfully completed the delivery of the Cotham Hill scheme on site. Construction has successfully begun and is ongoing on the Old Market Gap project. Contractors have successfully been appointed on the Park Row project. Working with South Gloucestershire Council, design continues to be developed on the Kingswood Town Centre Links project ready for construction in 2024. Ongoing work continues on the development of Full and Outline Business Cases for a further 5 projects under CRSTS and 6 schemes under the Investment Fund. This includes progress on the Full Business Cases on Scholars Way and Bath Quays Links, working in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council. A further 7 pipeline schemes are being developed under the Active Travel Fund and Investment Fund.
9. Supporting innovation is also key to improving the sustainability of our transport systems as well as supporting the growth of our economy. The GW-SHIFT: Great Western Supercluster of Hydrogen Impact for Future Technologies' is a

partnership between Combined Authority together with the University of Bath and fellows from the GW4 Alliance, Western Gateway, Hydrogen Southwest, Great South West and SETsquared. This £2.5m funded project will drive the development of hydrogen skills, infrastructure and technology through this collaborative partnership over the next four years.

## Buildings and places

- Following the successful, and high-profile launch of Retrofit West Advice service, delivery is ongoing by Retrofit West CIC. Their marketing campaigns are showing traction and they have delivered 3,432 pieces of advice, and issued 446 home assessment vouchers, of which 134 have been claimed to date. A new website has been launched. The service is working closely with the Unitary Authorities and the Combined Authority to raise awareness and develop comms and engagement approaches.

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Actuals to end Jan 24</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Apr 23 - Mar 24		Apr 24 - Mar 25	Apr 25 - Oct 25	Oct 22 - Mar 25
<b>Advice provision</b>					
Initial advice contacts	5,400	3,432	3,450	3,150	12,000
Voucher applications		446			
Total Plans and Surveys	592	134	3,358	1,300	5,250

- Over £200k has been allocated to 31 businesses to help them make energy saving improvements to their buildings and business operations. £1.8m remains to be allocated up to March 2025.
- A Retrofit West CIC consortium bid for delivery of the Business Support project has been approved for funding. Aimed at enabling businesses to build knowledge and confidence to transition into the retrofit market, it is anticipated sessions will begin to be offered in March 2024.

## Nature recovery

- Huge progress is being made towards supporting nature's recovery and ensuring the West of England is the pollinator capital of the UK. The Community Pollinator Fund has awarded funding to projects that are expected to engage more than 5,000 volunteers for a combined 49,000 volunteer hours by 2025. Awarding of grants from round 2 was completed by December 2023, with 56 grants awarded, bringing the total number of grants to 69. Round 2 projects are projected to create/improve 39.2 ha of habitats, bringing the project total to 62 ha to date. The Bee Bold Awards 2024 launched in February with a

business engagement event in Bristol City Centre.

14. To understand how we are progressing on nature recovery, it is vital that we have the means to show progress across the region. It is therefore a significant milestone for us to have procured an open data portal which will provide environmental data for the region. Partners and community groups will be able to publish data and showcase their efforts to protect nature, and this will host the Local Nature Recovery Strategy when it is published, which we are developing on behalf of the region.
15. Enabling people to engage with nature is critical to future recovery. Of the £10m we're investing in nature's recovery, Common Connections (lead South Gloucestershire) is improving 22.9 Ha of grassland, creating 10 Ha of tree canopy and creating or improving 18 ponds. The Full Business Case for WaterSpace Connected (Bath & North East Somerset in partnership with South Gloucestershire) is ongoing. The project is a continuation of the Bath RiverLine (lead Bath & North East Somerset) project and will create a new 36 Ha nature reserve and the project is focussing on improving 3.1km of river corridor, as well as improving access to nature. In addition, Somer Valley Rediscovered project (Bath & North East Somerset lead) will improve the quality of 34ha of accessible, biodiverse greenspace.
16. The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, to be known as the Nature Recovery Toolkit to help clarify its purpose, has been produced. It was developed in partnership with Supporting Authorities and key stakeholders, and with the benefit of extensive engagement. Public consultation is planned for mid-March 2024, assuming no objections raised by Supporting Authorities on the Consultation Draft or any objections that are raised can be resolved before then. Final LNRS to be complete by early-to-mid-July 2024

#### Business and skills

17. We have carried out 87 additional free carbon surveys using £416k funding to help small & medium sized enterprises (SMEs) understand their energy use and low carbon solutions; and seek funding to widen the scope and number of businesses eligible for a survey.
18. We are delivering Green Skills Bootcamps for residents, for projects relating to Organisational Sustainability, Upskilling to Retrofit, Retrofit advisors, assessors and coordinators, construction with green techniques and some electrical installation charging points training. The total funding allocated was c.£522k.

#### Net Zero Energy

19. The West of England's progression towards net zero energy has seen some fantastic delivery and developments. Solar Together round 2 has been launched, seeing 37% more interest than the first round already, with 1,150

households booking pre-installation surveys. Based on results from round 1, we can expect at least 3.8MW of new capacity and 3.8GWh of annual generation. Community energy groups (Bristol Energy Co-op and Bath and West Community Energy) are progressing solar schemes on other rooftops and arrays. The Cleveland Pools project in Bath successfully installed heatpump infrastructure on the River Avon - the robustness of which was tested in the floods in Jan 2024.

20. The South West Net Zero Hub launched their support for community energy schemes, and the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has launched their own dedicated complementary support via the Local Energy Scheme.
21. With c.100,000 homes above or near to former mines in the West of England, these now flooded mines could provide a source of warm water for low carbon heating. The Mayor launched a £1.6m investigation into heat from mines at Radstock Museum on the 24 January 2024. The project will map, study and investigate how the legacy of perhaps the most carbon polluting industry could supply heat to buildings through a system of insulated heat network pipes, heat pumps and 'heat exchangers'.

#### Climate resilience

22. Following the production of a regional climate pack for the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, we have reviewed this material to tailor it for different audiences in the region - focused on strategic partners, residents & business/organisations. We expect to publish on the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority website shortly.
23. We are working with Bristol City Council on the Bristol Avon Flood Strategy and exploring next steps on its funding model. We have also started discussions with UAs and the Environment Agency exploring the production of a regional view on flood risks now and in the future, to better understand the range of responses available to manage the risk more holistically.

#### Action Plan 2024/25

24. In addition to continuing delivery of existing actions, we propose a number of new action areas to help accelerate delivery of the Action Plan outcomes. Highlights include:

#### Net Zero

25. Looking ahead to 2024/25, various projects will be building the case to attract investment in net zero energy in the West of England. A consortium bid led by Bristol City Council has secured £5m of funding for 'Mission Net Zero', including developing a regional net zero investment plan; the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority have led a bid looking at the decarbonisation plan for our

industrial area of Avonmouth, Severnside and Portbury and these two projects will develop in close collaboration. Furthermore, partners including Bristol and Bath Regional Capital (the region's first, home-grown, place-based investor) have secured funding to develop a number of financial tools, including a regional Net Zero Accelerator Fund to invest public and private funds to support net zero SME growth in the region creating a range of green jobs and supporting the Just Transition.

## Corporate Carbon Management

26. As part of our action on Net Zero, we are committed to effectively managing our carbon emissions in all areas directly or indirectly impacted by West of England Mayoral Combined Authority funding decisions. A key part of managing any activity is having a strong reporting framework, so we are now setting out a commitment to implement a West of England Mayoral Combined Authority wide carbon management approach. Under this approach, we are seeking to clearly understand, report, manage and reduce our carbon impacts across all directorates in the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority including Infrastructure, Environment, Economy and Skills, and for our estate.
27. We already have carbon management reporting for some of our transport and environment projects. As a first step for 2024/25, we will be extending that to all new Infrastructure projects. During summer 2024, we will set out our reporting requirements for these new projects and begin consistently and transparently reporting carbon from those at the appropriate stage. This corporate reporting will cover activities and internal and external projects funded by the Mayoral Combined Authority. It does not extend to regional activity outside of the scope of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's activities. Our aim is to make the carbon data easy to understand and meaningful for both project managers and decision makers
28. Having identified the types of data that are available to report for each project development stage, we will start integrating the reporting requirements into our business processes and training staff on the new requirements. The plan will set out a process to integrate carbon analysis into business case development, grant funding requirements, project management and reporting.
29. Once we have rolled out carbon reporting to our Infrastructure Directorate, our intention is to review the process and roll it out to the rest of the projects funded by the Mayoral Combined Authority. We expect this to happen towards the end of the 24/25 financial year
30. We do not yet have specific targets for carbon reduction, although some existing projects have carbon management plans and are aiming to cut their carbon by c. 25-40% against their baseline. Targets will be developed once we have a better understanding of the current impacts. Carbon reporting will be integrated into our corporate reporting.



31. To drive this work forward, we have established an internal steering group and working group to help develop and implement the work. This group has already worked with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to seek their thoughts on the developing process and timeline for implementation. The steering group will engage with Unitary Authorities and other stakeholders, such as our supply chain, to ensure we are adopting best practice. Whilst there is an overriding imperative to manage down our carbon emission, we will work to ensure we are implementing changes that work with existing processes as far as possible.

#### Climate resilience

32. We have identified Climate Resilience as a key pillar of our climate and ecological strategy, and throughout 2023/24 we have been laying the groundwork for driving forward action in this area. Focus on resilience and adaptation has nationally been lower priority than net zero, but we need to recognise the scale of impacts likely to affect our region. We will be accelerating work in this area with the aim of providing the region with the right evidence and a clear set of actions to help build resilience to climate change in the West of England.

#### Flood risk management

33. A key resilience challenge that is already impacting the region is flood risk. A severe flood from the River Avon today would cause flooding of 1,300 homes and businesses in Bristol city centre and affect major transport infrastructure. Without any intervention, by the end of the century climate change would increase this risk to around 4,500 properties. The Bristol Avon Flood Strategy (BAFS) is a project of strategic and regional significance, designed to use adaptive raised defences to manage flood risk from the River Avon (1 in 200-year event). Phase 1 of the strategy is estimated to cost around £255million in present value terms, with estimated regional benefits of over £8billion and £2billion to the UK. Providing certainty for the project's delivery is key to being able to plan for thousands of new homes, provide industrial and commercial capacity, and connecting infrastructure that is fundamental to attracting investment, tackling inequalities and decarbonising the West of England.
34. Bristol City Council Cabinet made the decision in January to delegate allocation of BCC reserves, and to apply for West of England Mayoral Combined Authority funds to develop the Bristol Avon Flood Strategy, to the Executive Director. The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority provided a letter of support to Bristol City Council to set out West of England Mayoral Combined Authority 's commitment to the BAFS, assisting progression of the Outline Business Case for BAFS through Environment Agency review.
35. To support the development of the BAFS Full Business Case, the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority are exploring funding options to support the project. The details of this will be developed and will be presented at June



committee.

#### Green Infrastructure and Nature and Health

36. We know that engaging people with nature is a vital component to achieve our nature recovery goals. As David Attenborough quotes 'No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced'. We also have increasing evidence of the benefit to health that engaging with nature can bring, potentially relieving some of the burden on the NHS and local authority services. We propose to make a step change in these areas, building on the existing action plan and our Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy. This will include a proposed allocation of £423k that is currently unallocated within the Investment Fund and is subject to approval as part of the Investment Fund Programme paper

#### Proposed Nature loan application to be considered for future Committee discussions

37. Avon Needs Trees (ANT) have submitted a proposal to develop a new woodland. We will explore loan funding as an option for supporting this project. This would align with the work being undertaken on maturing investment to extend the proportion of the overall investment programme which is repayable, and potentially act as a model for future funding options for supporting nature recovery projects. We will work with ANT to develop a business case and if suitable, bring for approval at June committee.

#### Engaging business with nature

38. We have developed a strong and strengthening offer to business on net zero and now aim to build on this success by further supporting businesses across the region to adopt nature-based solutions. Reducing emissions from human activities whilst crucial is not enough on its own - adopting nature-based solutions is critical to achieving net zero targets.
39. A targeted engagement and mobilisation programme for businesses on nature is being drawn up that will be activated in 2024. This will support businesses of all sizes, across different sectors to help restore nature-depleted areas within our region and reduce wider negative impacts on nature. This in turn will help support businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, adapt to climate change, grow our green economy and skills and support communities to prosper. The programme will showcase case studies aligned with both the community pollinator funds awarded in 2023 as well as the Bee Bold Awards.
40. A list of all new and updated actions is shown in Appendix 3

#### Communicating the priorities and actions more effectively

41. We do not propose any changes to the 6 pillars of the current strategy. However, feedback on the current plan has suggested some changes to the

presentation to encourage greater engagement by partners and the public. We also want to be able to update sections that do not require committee approval without changing the whole document. We propose:

- a. The strategy, approach and overarching challenge sections move to web content using Webpages already established
- b. Mayor's forward combined to include our priorities at a glance and last year's regional achievements – as a form of Exec Summary to our Action Plan
- c. The updated 2024/25 action plan itself to be presented separately – this would be created from the proposed actions included in this paper.
- d. Updating the Action Plan indicators to keep it simple – for example have two per theme, one on West of England Mayoral Combined Authority activity, one on a regional outcome metric.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

42. Not providing a progress update on the West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan has been considered. This has been discounted on the basis that this does not meet our commitments to Committee nor the Motions we and Unitary Authorities have declared, nor provide the scrutiny, focus and oversight needed on our activity in tackling these emergencies.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

43. This Committee Paper has benefited from internal consultation with officers from across the West of England Combined West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and discussion with Unitary Authority officers including:
  - Consultation with West of England Mayoral Combined Authority officers across Environment, Infrastructure, Strategy and Business and Skills Directorates.
  - Consultation with Unitary Authority Environment Directors and Heads of Service covering climate and nature recovery portfolios.

### **Key Risks**

44. Despite the good progress being made on delivery, and the actions we are proposing for 2024/25, we know that we are not on course to deliver Net Zero by 2030, nor are we confident that we can reverse nature's decline in that period (let alone increase by 30%). Recent discussion with Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out the key risks around climate and nature delivery:
  - Scale of current investment inappropriate for challenge
  - Constrained Electricity Grid prevents renewable energy investment at scale
  - Transport Decarbonisation does not have the necessary levels of support for action

- Lack of regional resilience to climate change impacts threatens health and prosperity of the region
  - Retrofit of homes at scale lacks demand, supply and finance needed
45. We are committed to work on managing and responding to these risks, including new actions in this plan to improve carbon management and increased focus on climate resilience. However to properly address these risks, we will be working up a detailed proposal to set out the increase in scale of investment and delivery needed and this will be presented for consideration at June committee.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications**

46. Public Sector Equality implications are considered as part of the individual delivery plans for each action within the Action Plan. Additional focus will be given to these duties when developing and implementing our region wide climate and nature engagement work. Regardless of these legal duties it is essential that we hear from everyone in the region, and adapt our approach accordingly, to ensure we have the best chance of achieving our climate and nature objectives.

### **Climate Change Implications**

47. The aim of the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan is to reduce and manage climate impacts, and to reverse the decline in nature. As such, the actions identified will all contribute to making a positive impact.

### **Financial Implications**

48. The primary funding source for projects relating to the Action Plan is the £60m Green Recovery Fund, made up of £36m of West of England Combined Mayoral Combined Authority resources and £24m match funding for projects. The table below shows an updated summary of allocated funds and those in the pipeline, grouped by the six key areas within the Action Plan.

<b>Allocated funds</b>	GRF Resources	Match Funding	Total
<i>Buildings &amp; Places</i>	9,449,247	3,389,000	12,838,247
<i>Transport</i>	5,000,000	592,000	5,592,000
<i>Nature Recovery</i>	8,326,173	5,015,022	13,341,195
<i>Net Zero Energy</i>	3,280,934	7,601,968	10,882,902
<i>Business &amp; Skills</i>	1,400,000	0	1,400,000
<i>Climate Resilience</i>	300,000	0	300,000
<b>Total allocated</b>	<b>27,756,354</b>	<b>16,597,990</b>	<b>44,354,344</b>
<b>Pipeline</b>			
<i>Buildings &amp; Places</i>	3,809,743	5,630,000	9,439,743
<i>Transport</i>	0	0	0
<i>Nature Recovery</i>	2,473,702	1,800,000	4,273,702
<i>Net Zero Energy</i>	1,660,201	0	1,660,201
<i>Business &amp; Skills</i>	300,000	300,000	600,000
<i>Climate Resilience</i>	0	0	0
<b>Total pipeline</b>	<b>8,243,646</b>	<b>7,730,000</b>	<b>15,973,646</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>36,000,000</b>	<b>24,327,990</b>	<b>60,327,990</b>

### Legal Implications

49. There are no direct legal implications as this is an updating and informational report to Committee. However, Legal Services should be consulted by officers in relation to legal and governance requirements for Projects which are planned for implementation under the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan.

### Human Resources Implications

50. There are no direct Human Resources implications arising as a result of this paper. The delivery of the CESAP is planned from within budgeted resources. Any further resource requirements that arise from the planned delivery work will be subject to appropriate approvals and will be sourced in line with policy and best practice.

### Commercial and Procurement

51. There are no direct commercial implications arising as a result of this paper. The Commercial team is engaged with the team on the Avon Needs Trees Proposal as part of the development of the Approach to Maturing Investment fund project.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Action Updates
- Appendix 2 – New and Updated Actions

## Background papers:

- [West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan 2023  
\(westofengland-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

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## Appendix 1 – Action Updates

This appendix sets out the latest progress on actions in the Climate and Ecological Strategy and Action Plan 2023. In addition to the action and update, we have added in indicators of the potential impact of each action in, and the level of West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) control on the activity.

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
<b>Transport - Reduce number of car trips and freight journeys by:</b>				
T1	Reviewing our Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) to confirm the policies which will substantially cut greenhouse gas emissions, including reviewing our transport major scheme programme to prioritise our schemes in terms of their carbon and environmental impact.	The date for adopting an updated JLTP4 has been deferred to Spring 2025, as the Department for Transport's LTP guidance has still not been published. The milestones have been revised with an initial focus on submitting a package for City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement 2 (CRSTS2) funding by Summer 2024.	High	Direct
T2	Increasing the pace of transport decarbonisation by progressing plans and implementing demand management measures	Formulation of a bid for CRSTS2 (2026/27 to 2031/32) is also underway. An update to JLTP4 timescales is provided above. The time required to achieve the necessary permissions for fiscal traffic restraint options will be considerable.	High	Direct
T3	Supporting councils in their efforts to strengthen car parking policies and prioritising accessible locations and sustainable travel in new development through their Local Plans	This work is ongoing through work on the JLTP. See T1 for more information. Officers are also engaging with the UAs on their emerging local plans including sustainable development principles.	Low	Influence
T4	Developing detailed plans for a liveable neighbourhood in Bristol and confirming areas to deliver liveable neighbourhoods in B&NES and South Gloucestershire with a view to rolling out a programme of delivery across the region to reduce reliance on cars.	We have successfully worked with Bristol City Council to develop the East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood project to statutory consultation on trial measures in advance of launch. This trial scheme is now expected to begin in summer 2024 following a delay due to the Barton House emergency evacuation. We have additionally worked with Bristol City Council on a successful funding application to develop a Full Business Case for the South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood	Med	Influence



ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		<p>project. We have continued to work with South Gloucestershire Council on their ongoing work to develop Full Business Cases for Liveable Neighbourhoods in Yate and Thornbury, including the completion of initial public engagement work. We have continued to work with Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council on their ongoing Full Business Case for the B&amp;NES Liveable Neighbourhood programme. 3 on-street trials have been successfully completed through experimental traffic orders in January, with a further 5 planned.</p>		
T5	<p>Launch and trial Mobility as a Service scheme – a one-stop-shop to deliver a regional digital journey planning, booking, ticketing, payment, and information solution</p>	<p>Design development is ongoing. Project is progressing through Beta testing. MVP planned for spring 2024 with public launch later in the year.</p>	Med	Direct
T6	<p>Explore and secure investment in further innovative transport solutions and services to reduce car and freight trips (including alternative fuels such as electricity, hydrogen, and biofuels) as well as social and planning innovation.</p>	<p>As reported under action T21, we have successfully secured funding to build on our region’s hydrogen economy; and, as last reported, we have established horizon scanning opportunities for further innovation funding.</p>	Med	Direct
<b>Transport - Increase walking, cycling &amp; wheeling by:</b>				
T7	<p>Delivering 16 (Transforming Cities Fund, Active Travel Fund and CRSTS) walking, cycling &amp; wheeling schemes, and work with partners to submit applications for additional schemes to future active travel fund (round four).</p>	<p>A total of 16 walking, cycling and wheeling delivery schemes are in progress. Working with Bristol City Council, we have successfully completed the delivery of the Cotham Hill scheme on site. Construction has successfully begun and is ongoing on the Old Market Gap project. Contractors have successfully been appointed on the Park Row project. Working with South Gloucestershire Council, design continues to be developed on the Kingswood Town Centre Links project ready for construction in 2024. Ongoing work continues on the development of Full and Outline Business Cases for a further 5 projects under CRSTS and 6 schemes under the Investment Fund.</p>	Med	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		This includes progress on the Full Business Cases on Scholars Way and Bath Quays Links, working in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council. A further 7 pipeline schemes are being developed under the Active Travel Fund and Investment Fund.		
T8	Deliver 30 cycle hangars in Bristol, and explore feasibility of wider regional rollout	Following delivery of 30 cycle hangars in 2023, work to deliver 80 new cycle hangars on residential streets across the West of England is ongoing. A public engagement exercise was successfully completed in November 2023 to ask the public for locations.	Med	Direct
T9	Deliver walking, cycling and wheeling routes within new strategic transport corridors being delivered under the CRSTS, integrated with delivery of green infrastructure.	We have successfully submitted the Outline Business Case for the preferred package of measures on the Somer Valley Links project for committee approval, including substantial investment in improved active travel. We have successfully completed public engagement and consultation on the Bath City Centre and Bristol to Bath Strategic Corridors, including on a wide variety of active travel measures alongside bus priority and green infrastructure interventions. Work is ongoing for Business Cases for these two projects.	High	Influence
T10	Deliver improved walking, cycling and wheeling facilities across Yate Station, Ralph Allen School in Bath, Concorde Way, and Clapton Road in Midsomer Norton; and subsidising rental schemes and training, including Bristol Family Cycling Centre via £680k investment	Delivery of the behaviour change initiatives using this funding allocation is progressing well, with over 600 participants recorded to have taken part in one or many of the Unitary Authorities' behaviour change events by the end of 2023. These activities are expected to complete by March 2024. Separately, the Combined Authority is proposing to use a £27,000 allocation of the Capability and Ambition Fund 22/23 to deliver a centralised communications campaign, with a focus on promoting walking and cycling journeys to school and supporting the Modeshift travel to school programme. In terms of scheme development work being undertaken with this funding, consultation and preliminary design work has been completed for new links to Ralph Allen School and Lyncombe Vale in Bath, with further design work and topographical surveys planned for spring 2024. In	Med	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		South Gloucestershire, scheme planning and design for improved walking and cycling links to Yate Station are planned to be developed in 2024. In Bristol, public consultation work has concluded for improvements to the Concorde Way, supporting the development of improvements which are being developed for this route.		
T11	Supporting councils and regional partners in their walking and cycling initiatives including working with employers and communication campaigns, and in traffic management schemes	With an additional £340k funding from the Active Travel Capability Funding for 2023/24, we are continuing to provide ongoing support to the Unitary Authorities on the delivery of walking and cycling behaviour change initiatives in their area, including cycle training, bike maintenance, business grants and engagement events with schools and businesses. This funding, along with over £1m from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4, has also been on ongoing work to develop, design and plan schemes for a pipeline of future walking and cycling infrastructure improvements. The MCA have successfully supported the instillation of 54 cycle hangars to provide secure cycle parking in the region, with a further 80 planned. New and upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure is being successfully installed at Cotham Hill and Old Market, with more schemes due to break ground in 2024.	Low	Influence
<b>Transport - Increase uptake of public transport by:</b>				
T12	Run 'WEST Link' fleet of 'on demand' minibuses to connect people to our bus corridors (Demand Responsive Transport)	We are currently proposing substantial changes to the system to improve the service based on review and learning over the last 9 months.	Med	Direct
T13	Deliver Dynamic Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) trial in north Bristol to connect people to major employment opportunities and other key destinations such as Southmead Hospital	Service ongoing. 6-month evaluation report in review.	Med	Direct

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
T14	Build 13 green roofed solar-powered bus stops, as well as improving wildlife areas around them, this year and deliver up to a further 300 in subsequent years under CRSTS through to March 2027	All 13 shelters green roofed were successfully delivered up to May 2023, with a further 37 shelters upgraded. The additional bus shelters are being delivered as part of CRSTS.	Low	Direct
T15	Implement fare capping in place for adult single trips and develop a single ticket solution to simplify residents' journeys across the region through BSIP.	Free bus travel for Care Leavers was successfully launched in October 2023. Options are now being considered for Fares Package 3 with the aim to launch in April 2024.	Med	Direct
T16	Improving frequency and accessibility of trains through delivery of new train lines and stations (via MetroWest Phase 1, Phase 2 and CRSTS),	Works to open a new station at Ashley Down in 2024 are progressing well. A new footbridge was successfully installed at the station over Christmas 2023. Half hourly Gloucester line and Westbury line rail services introduced in May 2023 and funded for the 3-years. Further development funding was approved to enable South Gloucestershire Council to contract Network Rail to undertake detailed design development works for a new station at Charfield.	Med	Influence
<b>Transport - Increase uptake of electric and net zero fuel vehicles by:</b>				
T17	Delivering up to 256 electric vehicle charge points and up to 362 charging bays by investing £5m (informed by EV Investment Proposal, agreed in April 2022 WofE Committee)	The Full Business Case for the EV infrastructure Green Recovery Fund (GRF) scheme was approved by West of England CEOs on June 28th, 2023 (following delegated authority given by the West of England Committee in October 2023). However legal issues have since impacted the granting of these funds to UAs. Work has been ongoing since July 2023 to progress these legal issues and we are confident these will be resolved in the next quarter, allowing the scheme to be delivered.	High	Direct
T18	Commence a new contract for micro-mobility to enhance scooter hire provision and introduce on-street ebike hire in the Bristol Bath areas	Successful launch of service in Bath and Bristol urban area. Transition stage ongoing, and on track to meet contracted service levels by end of transition stage (April 2024).	High	Direct

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
T19	Deliver our sustainable urban freight trials, introducing e-cargo bikes in university and hospital campuses, 'parcels as passengers' on coaches and 'local high-street aggregator' to consolidate local neighbourhood deliveries	Monitoring and Evaluation of trials ongoing.	Low	Influence
T20	Supporting our councils in maintaining Clean Air Zones and in their electrification and decarbonisation of their fleet by publicly backing them	The EV Charging Action Plan was published and agreed in January 2024 Combined Authority Committee. B&NES and BCC CAZs continue to operate successfully.	Med	Influence
T21	Build our region's hydrogen economy by exploring opportunities for green hydrogen electrolysis and piloting application of hydrogen as a transport fuel in sectors difficult to electrify (including HGVs operating locally, such as busses and in goods distribution)	GW-SHIFT: Great Western Supercluster of Hydrogen Impact for Future Technologies' is a partnership between Combined Authority together with the University of Bath and fellows from the GW4 Alliance, Western Gateway, Hydrogen Southwest, Great South West and SETsquared. This £2.5m funded project will drive the development of hydrogen skills, infrastructure, and technology through this collaborative partnership and over the next four years. The Combined Authority has also led a consortium of 10 partners, securing almost £1m funding to develop a Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan for the area of Avonmouth, Severnside and Royal Portbury.	Med	Influence
<b>Transport - Reduce the impact of our transport systems on nature by:</b>				
T22	Agreeing a regional framework for how transport projects will minimise their impact on nature, through interventions such as nature-based solutions to road run-off, wildlife kerbs, and regular and targeted cleaning of gullies.	Work is ongoing, and we have successfully agreed to fund South Gloucestershire Council to develop of a business case for 'Reducing chemical and particulate load in highway run off' using nature-based solutions. The Environment Directorate are also working with infrastructure colleagues to consider how we can integrate our work on pollinators into our infrastructure plans.	Med	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
T23	Agree regional priorities for retrofitting of existing transport infrastructure to reduce its impact on nature	This work is ongoing, through discussions with infrastructure colleagues. Strengthened Green Infrastructure resource is required to accelerate progress and provide leadership on delivery of the Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan.	Med	Influence
<b>Buildings and Places - Increase the energy performance of homes and buildings across the region</b>				
BP1	Run the Retrofit Accelerator Phase I Homeowner Advice Service to increase the scale and pace of retrofit, creating a hub for homeowners to access information on retrofit . Forecast to advise 10,600 households, resulting in 5,250 homes being surveyed and delivering 4,200 measures in 1,400 households over the next 2 years	Retrofit West Advice service delivery is ongoing by Retrofit West CIC. Their marketing campaigns are showing traction and they have delivered 3432 pieces of advice, and issued 446 home assessment vouchers, of which 134 had been claimed to end January. A new website has been launched. The service is working closely with the UAs and the MCA to raise awareness and develop comms and engagement approaches.	High	Direct
BP2	Expanding the domestic retrofit supply chain via the £2m Retrofit Accelerator Phase IIa, supporting a minimum of 350 small and micro businesses, and Phase IIb (£200k) to integrate retrofit understanding and awareness into our FutureBright coaching service, and other skills offerings	A Retrofit West CIC led consortium bid to deliver the Business Support project which was approved for funding in January 2024. The consortium of seven partners are regional retrofit leaders. Aimed at enabling businesses to build knowledge and confidence to transition into the retrofit market, it is anticipated sessions will begin to be offered in April 24.	High	Direct
BP3	Deliver the Innovative Housing Retrofit Scheme, insulating 50-75 hard-to-treat homes within the region; and seek funding to expand the scheme to further demonstrate new approaches for wider roll out (e.g. offsite manufacturing)	Innovative Housing Retrofit Scheme (IHRS) projects are ongoing and are providing valuable lessons from the retrofit of hard-to-treat properties regarding design, build and tenant engagement. These lessons are invaluable as the social housing landlords plan to retrofit their estates at speed and scale.	Med	Direct
BP4	Carry out up to 400 free carbon surveys for small & Med sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them understand and reduce their energy use, carbon footprint and other environmental impacts	Report under Business & Skills theme.	NA	NA



ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
BP5	Provide c225 SMEs with grant funding to make energy saving improvements and install renewable energy via a new £2m Green Business Grant fund	To date £214k from the £2m pot has been awarded to 31 businesses, with a median grant award of £5,151.	Med	Direct
BP6	Promote grant-funded domestic retrofit programmes in our region including those via the South West Net Zero Hub , Warm & Well in South Gloucestershire, Energy at Home in Bath & North East Somerset and City Leap domestic retrofit in Bristol	Delivery of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 continues in the region, working with local social housing providers to fund £35m upgrades to 780 properties by March 2025. Work is still ongoing for Local Area Advice Demonstrator. Currently working with 5 partners. 2 partners fall within the West of England region. These projects have run events and already engaged with over 700 members of the public since October 2023. One of the projects focusing more on developing planning and assessment criteria within the local council (BaNES) for historic buildings in line with the new guidance. All projects will continue into 2025 so we expect to see more information and more engagement delivered in the near future.	Med	Direct
BP7	Work with public sector partners and the South West Net Zero Hub to secure funding, develop strategy and deliver decarbonisation projects on public land and buildings	The Hub has successfully supported public sector organisations to prepare and submit Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3c applications, with the aim of securing capital funding for their decarbonisation projects. Applications are currently going through technical assessment and grant offer letters are expected to be distributed by the end of March 2024. Phase 3c has a £230m pot of funding (available in 2024/25). 443 applications at a value of £1.3bn were received while the portal remained open, making it a competitive scheme. The Hub has also successfully organised a webinar specifically about the decarbonisation of schools, as our research has revealed their poor energy performance. Following the event, we received positive feedback and support requests from multi-academy trusts. Our support to them – and any other public sector organisations that aim to decarbonise their estate – is ongoing. We have also successfully collaborated with DESNZ on reviewing the Low Carbon Skills Fund scheme.	High	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
BP8	Develop a range of sustainable funding mechanisms for retrofit and the transition to non-fossil fuel reliant heating within the region to secure private and government funding	The consultant consortium led by Gemserv provided draft report to Hub and MCA for comment on 15 December 2023. This Treasury Green Book Full Business Case investigates the potential to establish a pan-regional £100m retrofit loan fund, using public subsidy and investment to leverage in private capital. This was successfully completed in March 2024. Ongoing work sees the MCA and SW Hub engaging with potential investors to establish appetite for progressing £100m fund, with fall-back option for MCA of establishing smaller independent West of England loan pot.	High	Direct
BP9	Develop our retrofit approach by improving our knowledge on existing housing and retrofit requirements – working with funders to collect data needed in securing investment	The MCA has joined a consortium led by Bristol City Council, successfully securing £5m of funding for the region. A quarter of this resource and work will be used in ongoing work, developing a net zero investment platform for the West of England.	Med	Influence
<b>Buildings and Places - Increase the number of new carbon neutral homes and buildings being developed that deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) by:</b>				
BP10	Publicly support Local Councils and the South West Net Zero Hub in adopting and enforcing net zero and BNG new build standards for new developments across the region through local planning policy	The Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on ‘Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update,’ published on 13 December 2023, seeks to curtail the use of local policy approaches for net zero new developments. Metro Mayor Dan Norris raised this in Parliament at the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee; recommending the Government reverse this WMS. MCA officers continue to engage UA officers in the West of England in efforts to still adopt and enforce net zero; working with the Hub to coordinate this across the South West. On BNG, 10% requirements have been introduced nationally. The MCA is convening and coordinating efforts across the West of England to ensure best use of BNG credits in supporting Nature Recovery. Further details in the Nature Recovery section. The Hub, B&NES, and the University of Bath have successfully published a report on the industry’s response to the Council’s net zero planning policy (introduced in January 2023). This was presented at the Key	High	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		Cities Innovation Network Symposium that took place in Wrexham in November 2023. We have now been invited to extend this into a full-length article for a peer-reviewed special journal.		
BP11	Review and coordinate regional development and adoption of innovative environmentally positive design and construction approaches (such as Bristol Housing Festival establishing a Regional Centre of Excellence in Housing Innovation; and Design Codes incorporating wildlife habitats such as swift boxes)	NA	NA	NA
<b>Buildings and Places - Reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based heating by:</b>				
BP12	Coordinate rollout of heat pumps with local councils and National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED), to accelerate rollout and maintain electricity grid resilience accommodates transition	Work here is ongoing. The MCA have continued coordinated engagement with NGED, as well as National Grid Transmission and ESO; and the regulator Ofgem. This includes our and UA role in Regional Energy System Planners. MCA and UA officers are also coordinating a response to the Government's Heat Network Zoning consultation, which will identify areas for heat networks; and conversely, areas where buildings will be dependent on heat pumps for heat decarbonisation.	Low	Influence
BP13	Develop a heat pump engagement and collective buying scheme, with corresponding local supply chain support, targeting delivery of an additional 1000 heat pumps across our region over 2 years	Work is Ongoing. The MCA has coordinated meetings UA officers, Retrofit West CIC, Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol City Leap. Concept supported and refined. Meeting again early January to develop concept of supply chain engagement. Supply chain engagement to be used to specify concept, for it to then be costed for development. The 1000 target of over 2 years once developed is ambitious (doubling historic installation dates). The next steps in developing this concept are to engage heat pump supply chain. This	Med	Influence

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		will continue into Q1 2024/25. If viable, this scheme will need to come to Committee if MCA resource is needed to develop this further.		
BP14	Agree cross-border collaboration agreements to support expanding the Strategic Heat Main within City Leap and other heat networks across the West of England	The MCA engagement with Vattenfall on developing the strategic heat main is ongoing. This includes engaging them on potential linkages between projects on heat from mines, the West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan, and in preparing the MCA's response to heat network zoning. A rethink of the wording for this action, given all Local Authorities have been collaborating on this - and the introduction of Heat Network Zoning and local government-based heat network zoning coordinators in 2025 has informed a revised action.	High	Influence
<b>Nature Recovery - Improve the quality and connectivity of existing spaces for nature and wildlife by:</b>				
NR1	Deliver improvements to existing natural green spaces such as through Common Connections.£3m in Chew Valley Lake, developing investable business cases for improvements at Bath Riverline and Waterspace Connected.	We have ongoing oversight of the three Green Infrastructure projects. Common connections is in delivery stage and is improving 22.9 Ha of grassland, creating 10 Ha of tree canopy, and creating or improving 18 ponds. Most of the project delivery is due to be completed by January 2024. There was a delay in installing grazing infrastructure, which was meant to be completed in December 2023. The milestone for introducing the grazing animals has been moved from June 2024 to October 2024. The FBC for Chew Valley Lake is ongoing, the timelines have been revised. Construction start date was forecast for July 2024, now revised to June 2025 due to lack of commitment and communication challenges from the landowners Bristol Water. The FBC will include a habitat creation scheme and details of the new 6 km footpath route, designed to protect the natural capital assets and ecosystem services including Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest. The FBC for WaterSpace Connected is ongoing. The project is a continuation of the Bath RiverLine project and will create a new 36 Ha nature reserve and the project is	Med	Influence

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		focussing on improving 3.1km of river corridor. Approximately one month delay due to difficulty appointing a bridge design team.		
NR2	Deliver access improvements to existing water (blue) spaces including £3m investment at Chew Valley Lake and developing business cases for improvements at Bath Riverline and Waterspace Connected.	As above	Med	Influence
NR3	Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) that provides a coherent regional vision and map for nature's recovery, building on the West of England Nature Recovery Network and helps direct investment effectively into the natural environment	The draft LNRS has been produced, in partnership with Supporting Authorities and key stakeholders, and with the benefit of extensive engagement. Public consultation planned for mid-March 2024, assuming no objections raised by Supporting Authorities on the Consultation Draft, or any objections can be resolved before then. Final LNRS to be complete by early-to-mid-July 2024	High	Direct
NR4	Develop a regional agreement for public sector bodies to reduce the use of pesticides on their estates, with an aim of eliminating use altogether.	Work is ongoing. More action is required on a regional agreement for public sector bodies. The MCA funded pesticide reduction campaign has reached over 50,000 people through a mixture of social media, website case studies and workshops.	Med	Influence
NR5	Provide residents access to volunteer in nature recovery projects and the natural environment jobs market via Pollinator Fund, Green Futures, Community Support Fund, and other grassroots skills programmes	The Pollinator Fund has awarded funding to projects that are expected to engage more than 5,000 volunteers for a combined 49,000 volunteer hours by 2025.	Med	Influence
NR6	Plant more trees and create habitats along strategic corridors and rivers (incl. CRSTS and strategic nature recovery networks)	This work is ongoing, in partnership with the Forest of Avon Trust, and the Woodland Creation Accelerator. We are also working with colleagues in infrastructure to explore a 'best in country' pollinator project that is delivered as part of an infrastructure project,	Med	Direct

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		strengthening our work towards becoming the Pollinator Capital of the UK.		
NR7	Develop a monitoring framework (data platform and ecological baseline) for the regions natural environment to enable us to measure progress towards our ambitions, including the possibility to use a wildlife index to measure abundance and diversity of wildlife amongst the current ecological network	We have procured an open data portal which will provide nature evidence for the region and will host the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and present it in a way that is attractive and accessible to users to enable action on natures recovery. Partners will also have the opportunity to publish data and showcase their efforts to protect nature. We are developing work on a wildlife index, with the expectation of running the project from the beginning of 24/25 business year.	Med	Direct
NR8	Develop innovative new ways of observing and monitoring the natural environment	This work is ongoing. We are working with partners in the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) to identify an appropriate model for measuring and reporting biodiversity, including the commissioning of a new Data Portal to support work in this area, and to host the Local Nature Recovery Strategy when it is published.	Med	Direct
NR9	Set up a region wide project that aims to understand the health of, and management approaches applied to the region's protected sites.	As above	NA	NA
NR10	Create capacity that will enable UA and partner priorities (WENP prospectus) to be developed into investment ready projects, and source varied and innovative funding options.	We have used Levelling Up funding to produce a Strategic Outline Business Case to support development of a landscape scale nature recovery programme in the limestone link, Bathscape, lower woods landscapes, building on the WENP prospectus of priority nature recovery projects. This is an innovative way to set priorities for nature recovery at scale, supporting business case development and the ability to access private and public finance. Working with UAs we are using Green Recovery Fund to develop a pipeline of investable projects across the region.	Med	Direct



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NR11	Work with West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) and Natural History Consortium (NHC) to raise awareness of and engagement with the natural environment, and encourage conservation volunteering and pro-environmental behaviours (City Nature Challenge, Team Wilder, Festival of Nature)	NHC have been commissioned to support our engagement work on the LNRS both pre and during the public consultation, and in addition to this are supporting MCA and WENP to develop resources to support businesses in their journey to recognising their impact on nature and contributing to natures recovery. We successfully fund 0.5 fte Project Support officer to support WENP Manager, and work collaboratively on many projects, including commissioning Atkins to develop a Strategic Outline Business case for landscape scale nature recovery in the limestone link, Bathscape and lower woods landscapes.	Med	Influence
<b>Nature Recovery - Create new spaces for nature and wildlife by:</b>				
NR12	Launch the second round of the Community Pollinator Fund to increase the number and quality of habitats for pollinators and bees across the region	Awarding of grants from round 2 was completed by December 2023, with a total of 56 grants awarded. Round 2 projects are projected to create/improve 39.2 ha of habitats, bringing the project total to 62 ha to date.	Med	Direct
NR13	Provide evidence to support councils' local plans and planning policy to create new spaces for nature and wildlife and protect existing spaces linking in with regional biodiversity objectives, including those set out in Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree, and Woodland Strategy.	LNRS Project Manager (BANES employee, part funded by MCA) continues to engage regularly with Heads of Planning on the preparation and development of the LNRS, which will have a formal link with local plans. Also, Senior Manager, Nature Recovery, Chair's Natural Environment Officers Steering Group to ensure all authorities working together to deliver the Action Plan and other strategies.	Med	Influence
NR14	Promote and embed the West of England Placemaking Charter for creating high quality, biodiverse places that support access to nature and encourage health and wellbeing	Work is ongoing. MCA's Senior Manager for Nature Recovery is working with the MCA's Head of Place to align planning and environmental strategies, including the LNRS, and Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, to ensure maximum opportunity to create high quality, biodiverse places that encourage health and wellbeing.	Low	Direct

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NR15	Ensure that transport and planning projects delivered by the Mayoral Combined Authority positively contribute towards nature's net recovery, including delivering at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain	Work on this is ongoing. Environment Team are engaging with Infrastructure team to support with delivery of BNG, as part of wider programme to deliver our nature and climate commitments.	Med	Direct
NR16	Together with WENP and the Forest of Avon Trust, renew and continue to accelerate action in delivering the Forest of Avon Plan. Includes investment of £730,000 for the Forest of Avon Trust for woodland creation, including 50,000 broadleaf trees in diverse habitats	Working in partnership to increase tree cover in the region. Work is continuing successfully at Great Avon Wood to plant/conserv 50,000 trees following our investment through the Green Recovery Fund. We also supported Avon Needs Trees with their successful application to Defra's Landscape Recovery Fund and are funding Forest of Avon Trust tree technicians through the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund. Working in partnership to support stage 1 application for a National Forest.	High	Direct
NR17	Work with Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to identify actions and investment required to deliver the Bristol Avon Catchment Plan and the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy to improve the health, biodiversity and resilience of our water courses, wetlands, and river catchments.	We are working with Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to support projects that improve the health and resilience of our water courses. This includes work on delivering the Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, and through the LNRS.	Med	Influence
<b>Nature Recovery - Enable business, other stakeholders, and residents to contribute to nature's recovery, including unlocking investment in nature-based solutions by:</b>				
NR18	Develop and promote the biodiversity footprint concept, to engage and inform businesses about how they can make changes to their supply chain to support nature.	We continue to work to engage with businesses and have commissioned NHC to procure resources to support this work. Our Senior Manager for Nature Recovery spoke on a panel at a business biodiversity event at Osbourne Clarke in Autumn 2023, and we will launch our Bee Bold Awards 2024 there in February.	Med	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
NR19	Develop an approach to enabling and collecting citizen science data, to engage people with nature and support decision making.	Work on this is ongoing. The open data portal which we have procured is a key component in supporting citizen science activity. This will enable community groups to publish their data and tell stories about their work. We will engage with the Wessex Citizen Science Local Pilot to support their aspirations in 2024.	Med	Influence
NR20	Hold further Bee Bold Awards and create targeted business campaigns to support businesses create habitats and support pollinators.	The Bee Bold Awards 2024 launched in February with a business engagement event in Bristol City Centre. A targeted campaign for engaging businesses with nature is being drawn up, including case studies of leading organisations, which will take place across 2024, alongside the Bee Bold Awards.	High	Direct
NR21	Develop platforms that enable businesses to invest in the natural environment (e.g. Bristol and Avon Catchment Market)	We are working to support UA colleagues to implement statutory BNG. Our work to prepare the LNRS will, for example, ensure that BNG and other forms of private finance is channelled into priority areas for our region's nature recovery.	High	Influence
NR22	Work with the agricultural community to understand needs and land use options to unlock investment for nature, aiming to create a coalition of agricultural partners signed up to support nature recovery	We have successfully completed the first stage of engagement on the preparation of the LNRS, and the public consultation will provide a further opportunity for the agricultural community to comment on priority areas. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust are leading work to establish farm clusters in the region, which will also be explored through the Business Case for the Limestone Link. Farm clusters are seen as important in engaging farmers with strategic priorities for nature in the region.	High	Influence
NR23	Using regional skills programmes including Multiply and Workforce for the Future to build skills required for ecology and natural environment sector.	Reported under Business and Skills - BS13. Action is complete.	NA	NA
<b>Business &amp; Skills - Support businesses to transition to low emission, sustainable practices and adapt for climate resilience by:</b>				

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
BS1	Carry out up to 400 additional free carbon surveys using £416k funding to help small & Med sized enterprises (SMEs) understand their energy use and low carbon solutions; and seek funding to widen the scope and number of businesses eligible for a survey	87 carbon surveys have been completed since April to January. These provide businesses with an understanding of their energy usage and low carbon options to support grant applications and business planning.	Med	Direct
BS2	Deliver a new £2m Green Business Grant fund to help approx.225 SMEs to make energy saving improvements and install renewable energy, based on findings from a low carbon business evidence base	Reported under Buildings & Places - BP5	NA	NA
BS3	Increase our understanding of the scale of the challenge and support needed to decarbonise small & Med sized enterprises in the region, through commissioning a low carbon business evidence base and intelligence gathered from the Growth Hub	Low Carbon Business Evidence Base completed by Future Leap consultants. Findings have been used to set the terms for Green Business Grants, Rooftop Solar Grants and Heat Pump Grants to ensure appropriate intervention rates. Findings on the low carbon business sector and commercial buildings to be disseminated through a stakeholder webinar.	Low	Influence
BS4	Pilot a Rooftop Generation Grant to encourage the use of larger business premises to boost solar PV generation capacity.	Reported under Net Zero Energy - NZE2	NA	NA
BS5	Deliver more carbon & nature literacy support for businesses to improve their understanding of climate and ecological emergencies and actions they can take to help decarbonise and build resilience through website resources and 4 events per year.	All Growth Hub (GH) Execs have undertaken Carbon Literacy training and have identified individual and team commitment to increasing awareness of opportunities for businesses to reduce carbon. Alongside support for businesses to reduce carbon the GH team are preparing to engage with businesses on the nature and biodiversity agenda. We are exploring the development of nature literacy training, based on the model of carbon literacy.	Low	Influence

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BS6	Develop a focussed net zero Growth Hub route to sit alongside the embedded activities already in place, to advise SME businesses on net zero journeys with a year-on-year increase in the number of businesses supported. .	Q3 Growth Hub stats: 804 GH Newsletter clicks for Green Grants and Surveys; 1,875 unique visits to the Green Pillar on the GH Website; 613 GH sustainability / environmental interventions; 69 direct GH referrals to Low Carbon Grants / surveys	Low	Direct
BS7	Investigate the benefits and ways in which the Mayoral Combined Authority could support a regional transition towards circular economy principles.	Remove this action, as work has been deprioritised	Low	Influence
BS8	Explore opportunity to recognise businesses' positive actions through green digital badging, aligned to our Good Employment Charter (which has sustainability running through each of its pillars)	Work is ongoing, reviewing implementation of green digital badging and collaboration with climate resilience activity across the organisation, for example promotion of nature recovery and the Bee Bold Awards.	Low	Influence
BS9	Develop a peer-to-peer support programme to promote innovation and environmental transition, including becoming nature positive, via mentoring, sharing best-practise and networking events	Elements of this is being met through the Good Employment Charter, work on which is ongoing with an established monthly peer-led learning meeting which regularly includes climate resilience topics. Regular collaboration on these meetings and promotion of materials and resources to businesses alongside Environment team and related projects.	Low	Influence
<b>Business &amp; Skills - Ensure local people can access green jobs and bring 23,000 green jobs across the region by:</b>				
BS10	Deliver green careers advice universally to school aged children and young people via the Careers Hub and seek funding to build on the Green Futures Fund pilot.	Business Case approved by Directors. The £300k will be used to fund delivery of five projects that will deliver against the long-term impact objectives outlined in the project logic model. • More young people pursue and successfully achieve green career pathways • Inequality is reduced for students who face additional barriers to the workplace. • Employers are able to recruit diverse local talent, increasing diversity within the workforce of the future • Employers are able to fill their	Med	Direct

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		<p>vacancies and skills gaps in the green economy are reduced. One project (LMI digital resources) has been procured and delivery has started. The other four projects will be grant funded through an open application funding call which is now live (deadline March 6th, 2024). Evaluation and Monitoring support is being currently procured. Thought the funding the following outputs will be achieved:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 200 young people take part in Experiences of the Workplace</li> <li>- 50 Employers offer an experience of the workplace</li> <li>- 10,000 primary and secondary students take part in large scale careers events</li> <li>- 80 teachers take part in Continuous Professional Development</li> <li>- 240 young people take part in a progressive programme of targeted activity</li> </ul> <p>- All young people in the region have access to 'Green' digital labour market information Currently waiting for applications to be returned on other stream. Once assessed awards will be given and delivery will commence. Delivery would be expected to commence September 2024 over a two-year period. Further experience of the work place Large scale event focusing on green industries, reaching 10,000 students - CPD and employer engagement - 80 teachers Mentoring for disadvantages groups to considering green roles - 240 students</p>		
BS11	Use business engagement to understand what skills / knowledge they need in place to meet the 2030 ambitions to inform our skills provision including Skills Connect, Good Employment Charter and Skills Bootcamps.	The Good Employment Charter has 162 active supporters and 4 members. 494 businesses and 16,832 employees are engaged through support, resources, and events.	Low	Influence
BS12	Use Skills Connect to support individuals to access information, advice, and guidance on green jobs through the Retrofit Accelerator Phase IIb, FutureBright, Skills Connect and Green Skills Bootcamps	LA Skills Connect delivery partners continue to provide information, advice and guidance pertaining to green skills opportunities within the region. With the support of the Green Skills Manager this advice has been extended to Future Bright coaches and DWP work coaches. Skills Connect has successfully launched with its own designated site	Med	Influence



ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		to Green Skills offering advice to residents. The site has received over 60 unique hits since launching. Work is continuing to develop a consistent approach to classifying green roles applying the IfATE national approach. Next development will be to write these green occupational maps onto the Skills Connect site to provide further clarity around career progression and opportunities with the green space and adopt these classifications across the skills service.		
BS13	Deliver Workforce for The Future, aiming to support over 450 SME businesses and 1000 residents access skills and training including green skills	Workforce for the Future completed December 2023. Final evaluation report to be completed March 2024	Med	Direct
BS14	Deliver Green Skills Bootcamps for residents as part of our £5.1m Wave 4 programme, focusing on retrofit; green transport; and organisational sustainability	Funding for Wave 4 was secured, with a total allocation of £700,874.69 for Green Projects in both call one and call two. The funded projects encompass areas such as Organisational Sustainability, Upskilling for Retrofit, Retrofit Advisors, Assessors, Coordinators, Construction using green techniques, and training for electrical installation charging points. Specific marketing campaigns and employer events have been launched to stimulate demand	NA	NA
BS15	Publish and use the findings from the South West Skills Study from the South West Net Zero Hub to build on the West of England Green Skills Analysis Report to inform our provision of retrofit and green skills	Procurement of new skills study for the SW region in line with DESNEZ requirements for evidence to deliver retrofit skills funding via the SWNZH from April 2024. Gemserv successful bidder. Study to conclude March 2024	Low	Direct
<b>Business &amp; Skills - Prepare business for emerging green economies by:</b>				
BS16	Support 350+ domestic retrofit small and micro businesses through the Retrofit Accelerator Phase IIa, to raise awareness, train and increase accreditation	Reported under Building & Places theme - BP2	NA	NA

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
BS17	Leverage national funding for large scale initiatives (such as demonstrators, networks, living labs) and support manufacturing and engineering industries to innovate new sustainable technologies and supply chains	The West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan was successful in securing funding for this £750k revenue funded plan. This work is reported in the Net Zero energy theme.	Med	Direct
BS18	Support SMEs to innovate new sustainable technologies through delivery of the Business Innovation Fund and Digital Engineering, Technology, and Innovation (DETI), and Made Smarter programmes	Successfully delivered the Digital Engineering, Technology, and Innovation Programme. The Made Smarter programme is ongoing and continues to support manufacturing SMEs with the adoption of industrial digital technologies such as AI, VR, robotics, and automation; it has one more year of delivery but is in the last phase of recruitment with few spaces left for production-based organisations. It might be extended to March 2026 including additional funding. The Business Innovation Fund is ongoing with 6 R&D projects that aim to tackle the climate and/or ecological emergencies supported to date. Another grant round is being prepared for a March 2024 launch and SMEs undertaking such activity will again be encouraged to apply.	Med	Direct
BS19	Develop innovative green financial and delivery models, including those unlocking investment in nature-based solutions and supporting organisations in the West of England FinTech Strategy	This work is ongoing, although subject to the authority considering its overall investment activities in the future. A dedicated role has been created and officer onboarded in the environment directorate, now undertaking more holistic work in this respect. A new workstream is ongoing for business and nature recovery, focussing currently on engagement activities.	NA	NA
BS20	Revise our regional procurement strategy to include environmental weighting alongside social value in procuring sourced goods and services.	Changes to the Procurement Act 2023 are being worked through the procurement team's ways of working, in order to enable adoption of more flexible practices regarding procurement for social purpose and innovation. This will further enhance ongoing work on social value strategy.	Med	Direct

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
BS21	Use Invest Bristol & Bath to create a campaign to attract new green businesses to the region, targeting a third of new businesses attracted to the region via Invest Bristol & Bath to be focused on green jobs	Green Energy and Low Carbon Campaign – Nuclear SW proactive campaign to be scaled down. Ongoing support to the new giga battery centre at Gravity. Lack of land in the WoE for battery related enquiries but focusing on supply chain opportunities. Early stages discussions on Heat networks supply chain investment prospectus. Agri Tech campaign - Working with DBT and SW partners to deliver AgriTech Showcase 2024 (21 March). Space West, BRL and LetusGrow engaged with the programme by IBB.	Low	Direct
<b>Net Zero Energy - Increase renewable energy generation across the region, including through local, community focussed generation by:</b>				
NZE1	Deliver £1.5m funding for Sustainable Innovative Finance Foundations for Wind Turbines (SIFFFT) to bring 10 sites to landowner agreement and 3 sites securing planning through a community led model across the region, providing a pipeline of up to 70MW of investable onshore wind projects with shared learning for other communities.	The SIFFFT project has successfully completed phase 1 of the Local Authority x3 land search and initial identification of possible sites. Two Community Groups engaged, and non-disclosure agreements signed. First on-site ecology surveys underway. Ongoing work on land agreements, pre-planning applications and wider community engagement on renewables.	Med	Direct
NZE2	Rollout rooftop solar, including £569k for Bristol Energy Co-Op to install over 2MW PV targeting rooftops of SMEs, schools and community buildings; piloting a Rooftop Generation Grant scheme encourage the use of larger SME business premises to boost solar PV generation capacity; and launching a second round of solar bulk-purchasing solar PV scheme open to residents and businesses	Round 2 of Solar Together West of England bulk-purchase scheme for domestic solar installs is in the survey and installation phase. Successfully exceeding the numbers registering from the previous round with 37% more sign-ups. 1,150 pre-installation surveys booked with customers. Surveys and first installations are ongoing. Bristol Energy Co-op are successfully progressing with their project pipeline, preparing roof lease agreements with two sites. First 50kW installed in 2023 Q2, estimated £6.8k energy cost saving for site. New site engagement and solar roof installation programme is ongoing, with the first installs in B&NES and South Glos areas due late spring. LES3 Revenue application window successfully launched.	Med	Direct

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
NZE3	Seek sustainable funding for free local energy advice provision for residents seeking help in coping with their energy bills	Three organisations in the West of England - Severn Wye Energy Agency, Bath & West Community Energy, and the Centre for Sustainable Energy - have been successful in securing funding for Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) funding via the SW Net Zero Hub. Their Ongoing work will see BWCE and CSE delivering events and in-person energy advice. This includes running a Green Open Homes event in November '23 which successfully attracted 788 attendees: with 67 of these signposted to Retrofit West. Directors of the MCA and UAs approved investing £208k in providing local energy advice at end of November '23. This will provide grant funding to help resource the existing service in South Gloucestershire. A tender has successfully been launched for £148k to provide freephone energy advice in Bristol and Bath and NE Somerset Council; this tender includes flexibility to allow additional funders to invest in the provision of this service. A small proportion of budget will be used once advice is operational to engage and raise profile of freephone advice for households most in need.	Med	Direct
NZE4	Fund the Local Energy Scheme round 2 capital projects and launch a third round for development and capital funding of over £600k to support community led projects, including 'smart' energy systems.	Bath & West Community Energy's Fairy Hill Ground mounted solar array in Compton Dando has been submitted for Planning Permission. Ongoing with a decision due after March 2024. Cleveland Pools project successfully installed heat pump infrastructure on the river Avon - the robustness of which was tested in the floods in Jan 2024. LES3 Revenue pot for renewable and smart energy projects application window successfully launched and the evaluation and award process is ongoing.	Med	Direct
NZE5	Support public sector partners across the region developing major capital projects through the South West Net Zero Hub provision of free local technical assistance	In the West of England, the hub is providing ongoing support to SGC to develop the business case for a rooftop solar programme and has successfully completed a review of an initial proposal for 256.56kWp additional solar at Bradley Stoke leisure centre. Ongoing support to B&NES has resulted in a formal request for support in developing the	Med	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		<p>finance case for solar canopies at P&amp;R sites. The hub is working with NGED to determine the likelihood of connection opportunities for ground mount solar for N Somerset - project development ongoing. Neither GWAAC nor BWCE were successful in their applications to NGED for accelerated connection for their ground mount solar schemes (but support for both projects is ongoing nonetheless). Marshfield energy group submitted an EOI to the MCA's Local Energy Scheme fund and was referred to Retrofit West to access their funding.</p>		
NZE6	<p>Work with National Grid Electricity Distribution and partners to bring forwards renewable generation approved but not yet operational renewable electricity generation</p>	<p>National Grid Distribution are a partner on Mission Net Zero (see new action) and have successfully run connections workshops with UAs and community energy groups the MCA is funding. Ongoing work by officers is seeking to engage and help facilitate acceleration of renewable energy grid connections que. In addition, MCA is engaged with National Grid ESO and Ofgem in developing Regional Energy System Plans and is seeking to input into plans for the UK's first Strategic Spatial Energy Plan - who Gov are due to commission the ESO to produce in early 2024.</p>	High	No control
NZE7	<p>Explore the opportunity for capturing heat from mines, working with the UK Coal Authority to expand investigations in South Gloucestershire and Bristol's eastern fringe across the region's former coal workings across Bristol, Bath, and North East Somerset</p>	<p>The MCA successfully launched £1.6m investigations into heat from mines at Radstock Museum on the 24 January. Input from this and follow-ups with UAs and others, a paper is going to Environment Directors for approval on how this funding delivers derisking of this significant heat decarbonisation potential opportunity- broadly summarised in the 2024 ongoing action. The SW Net Zero Hub have awarded a contract to Sustainable Energy Ltd (SEL) to investigate above ground heat distribution opportunities.</p>	Med	Direct
NZE8	<p>Explore innovative water sources of heating and cooling including from our harbours, rivers, and sea</p>	<p>Work is ongoing. In process of joining the Celtic Sea Cluster (CSC) Strategic Board regarding the development underway of the brand-new industry of floating offshore wind (FLOW). Meeting between</p>	Med	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		CEOs of CSC and Mayoral Combined Authority scheduled for Q2. Current focus of developing innovative sources of heat and cooling has been via heat from mines work (see separate action update on this).		
NZE9	Input into Severn Estuary tidal energy commission via Western Gateway	MCA Officers are on Western Gateway's low carbon energy working group, whose work includes reviewing recently commissioned study an up-to-date evidence base and framework for sustainable energy in the Severn Estuary.	Low	Influence
<b>Net Zero Energy - Work in partnership to develop new smart approaches to the decarbonisation, storage, management, and distribution of energy by:</b>				
NZE10	Increasing energy innovation funding coming to the region, working with partners such as our region's universities, R&D companies, Innovate UK and Energy Systems Catapult and National Grid (formerly Western Power Distribution)	Work on the West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan has successfully started. And also on Bristol's Mission Net Zero (see new 2025 action) MCA inputted and supported a UWE-led consortium bid to InnovateUK's Accelerating Green Economy Centres focused on retrofit.	Med	Direct
NZE11	Work with National Grid and our local councils to develop proposals to trial new flexible and other innovative solutions as lower cost alternatives for grid reinforcement and to deliver additional renewable energy generation	This action is reported on in actions NZ6 and NZE8-NZE10.	Low	Influence
NZE12	Investigate and support deployment of viable conjoined renewable electricity 'private wire' and virtual 'synthetic' networks connected to local communities	This action is reported on in actions NZ6 and NZE8-NZE10.	Low	Influence
NZE13	Review and collect evidence to develop regional heat and electricity decarbonisation pathway scenarios to net zero and the role different	Both the MCA's bid for developing a Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan (LIDP) for the West of England's industrial area; and Bristol's 'Mission Net Zero' bid have been successful. These provide the	Med	Direct

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
	interventions will play (e.g. energy storage, renewable electricity, heat pumps and renewably fuelled heat networks)	funding to develop robust regional decarbonisation pathways, evidencing the investment needs and roles different technologies and place-based contributions needed to achieve net zero		
NZE14	Developing a coordinated approach with National Grid and local councils to locate new homes, buildings and infrastructure linked with renewable energy generation and storage to overcome grid constraints	MCA engagement with National Grid and Ofgem on this is ongoing; and linked to the establishment of Regional Strategic Energy Plans (RESPs). These will be the stronger link sought in the Action Plan, local spatial planning, energy infrastructure planning, investment, and the UK Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (to be developed by National Grid ESO over 2024). Whilst seeking to shape how these are established and ensuring they benefit from input, including that from NZE13's 2024 action (see above); the MCA continues engagement as and when needed with NG to shape delivery of energy schemes the MCA or partners are involved in.	High	Influence
NZE15	Engage communities and energy groups on the roles they can play in delivering smart energy solutions and provide information to them on our green careers and opportunities programmes	The Community Energy Fund aims to: 1. Increase the level of community and locally owned renewable and low carbon energy assets to make progress towards the Government's net-zero carbon emissions targets 2. Support communities by helping them to reduce energy costs or generate income through community owned energy assets, reinvesting income locally, or services to reduce energy demand. 3. Promote growth through the creation of jobs and volunteering opportunities in the communities where projects are located. The Fund will achieve its aims by removing barriers to investment that are currently preventing the development of community-scale projects. Size of fund: £1 million per financial year, (2023/24 and 2024/25) with 10% of that available for project costs, so at least £900k per year to be allocated as grants. Application rounds: There will be multiple application and assessment windows between December 2023 and March 2025. Window 1 opened in December and closed on 15th Jan 2024. Window 2 is likely to open soon (Feb or March 2024 all being well). Target timeframes for application and	High	Direct

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
		<p>assessment windows will be published on the Hub webpages - (this is not yet done) and publicised widely. To enable a more agile and responsive approach, detailed dates for the opening and closure of application windows will be published and shared as and when each window is confirmed. Number and value of applications for Window 1: SW area total: 17 applications, value £538k. Of which this number were from the MCA area: 7 applications, value £280k. Update from MCA: A briefing session with Community Energy organisations was successfully held to provide them links to supported Green Skills and Jobs opportunities offered by the Combined Authority.</p>		
<b>Climate Resilience - Climate Resilience</b>				
CR1	Work with Met Office to develop a regional 'Climate Pack' – identifying the anticipated future climate change for the region	The Met Office has successfully produced a regional climate pack for the MCA. Work is ongoing to tailor the material for different audiences in the region - focused on strategic partners, residents & business/organisations - and preparing for web publication.	Med	Direct
CR2	Convene regional conversations and collect evidence to understand the impacts of climate change and adaptations needed, particularly focused on those communities most vulnerable and least able to adapt.	Climate resilience engagement with residents is ongoing and will use the regional engagement programme as our main outreach channel. High-level messaging led by the MCA will include hearing from people about their lived experience, the needs of their communities and their resilience in the face of the climate and ecological emergencies. Work is ongoing to develop these messages with the mayor and through the Climate & Nature Panel, where engagement activities will be used to collect this evidence.	Low	Influence
CR3	Develop a regionwide heat vulnerability assessment to identify areas of high risk of overheating during heatwaves – expanding on Bristol's heat vulnerability mapping to inform management of	We are reassessing the adoption of a regionwide version of the Bristol heat vulnerability mapping, to ensure we are picking up on wider work being done by South Gloucestershire on health and flood impacts. We will review the mapping and create a selection of maps for hosting on the data portal.	High	Direct



ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
	housing, parks and green spaces parks, tree planting and management			
CR4	Establish a regional steering group overseeing development of an Adaptation Plan distilling West of England priorities for early action from NAP3	MCA (along with South Gloucestershire UA) has committed to Adaptation Reporting Power 4 (ARP4) pilot for Local Government, submitting report end 2024. Discussions with UAs and other partners, wider governance arrangements & setting-up task and finish group.	High	Direct
CR5	Work with the local councils and Local Resilience Forum run by Avon & Somerset Police to strengthen regional public service resilience to climate change	Infrastructure Director has joined A&SLRF Executive Group, ongoing discussions regarding collaboration and interfaces with the MCA's climate resilience work.	Low	Influence
CR6	Support regional climate change risk assessments across the region's sectors to increase climate consideration & help standardise approach	The ARP4 report will include an initial climate risk assessment.	Med	Direct
CR7	Work with National Grid, Wessex Water, Bristol Water, and other local infrastructure providers to understand regional infrastructure resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Developing engagement programme to steer priority regional discussions with UAs and regional partners.	Med	Influence
CR8	Coordinate regional review and application of West of England Sustainable Urban Drainage guidance for new buildings and infrastructure with unitary authorities	Discussions with EA including setting-up a strategic regional flood group.	Med	Influence
CR9	Support the Bristol Avon Flood Strategy feasibility work completed in last two years, commencing delivery of Phase 1 of flood defences, and coordinating a regional approach to flood defences and mitigations	Letter of support sent to Bristol City Council to set out MCA's commitment to the BAFS, assisting progression of OBC for BAFS through Environment Agency review.	High	Influence

ID	Action	Update: March 2024	Impact	MCA Control
CR10	Assess and ensure Mayoral Combined Authority capital investments consider the impacts of and are integrating resilience to climate change impacts	The MCA has successfully recruited a Senior Manager for transport in the Environment Team. Their ongoing work with colleagues aims to develop the MCAs approach to the environment including considering climate risks and build-in climate resilience, working closely with the Climate Resilience Manager.	Med	Direct
CR11	Identify and embed opportunities within advice to businesses (in particular, low carbon surveys and grants provision) to support them to build resilience to climate impacts	Work is ongoing to widen the scope of business support, initially looking at climate resilience and nature recovery, starting with overheating risk and cooling demand.	Low	Direct
CR12	Ensure the Retrofit Accelerator and other retrofit projects consider and improve buildings' climate resilience	Work is ongoing to review how retrofit projects can support climate resilience, starting with overheating risks and possibly widening scope to cover other risks.	Med	Direct
CR13	Deliver green and blue infrastructure and nature projects (in Nature Recovery section) to help address impacts of climate change	The LNRS consultation draft has objectives and priority areas shaped by climate risks, helping to increase nature's resilience to impacts and maximising opportunities to mitigate risks through nature-based solutions especially natural flood management.	High	Direct
CR14	Working with WENP and other partners to develop an approach to assessing local-level biodiversity loss and the measures required to enable local threatened species to adapt.	Delivered through nature recovery actions, including exploring data sets that fill evidence gap on climate change impacts.	Med	Direct
CR15	Build evidence on land used for food production in our region and how this could be impacted by climate change to develop a regional food production strategy	Discussions between UAs and MCA on regional priorities.	Low	Influence

## Appendix 2 – Updated (u) and new (n) actions

### Transport

Build on the successful rollout of cycle hangars in Bristol and deliver 80 new cycle hangars across the West of England. (u)
Deliver up to a further 300 in subsequent years under CRSTS through to March 2027. (u)
Implement Corporate Carbon Management approach for the MCA, with all new infrastructure projects reporting on carbon impacts by the end of 24/25. (n)

### Buildings and Places

Continue to deliver Retrofit West Advice, providing homeowners and private landlords and tenants with impartial information about retrofit and discounted home surveys. Forecast to advise 10,600 households, resulting in 5,250 homes being surveyed and delivering 4,200 measures in 1,400 households over the next 2 years. (u)
A Mayoral Combined Authority Business Case on delivering Retrofit West Finance low cost loan packages to householders to be developed during 2024, to be brought to Committee in 2025. (u)
Develop our retrofit approach through collaboratively establishing net zero investment platform (see action in Net Zero theme); and working with our Retrofit Strategic Steering Group to further improve our housing retrofit evidence-base. (u)
The MCA will continue supporting Councils in the adoption of local policy to improve the environmental performance of new developments in the West of England, and in seeking powers from Government to enable this. The Hub will lead the new Places & Planning working group, with representatives from all the Hubs across England as well as DESNZ. This will help us better understand the needs of Councils with regard to adopting and implementing net zero planning policies, and how to best support them. (u)

### Nature recovery

The Community Pollinator Fund will move in 24/25 to identification of a large-scale strategic pollinator project for the region with a grant of up to £400,000 available, whilst evaluating the impact of round 1 and 2 projects. Ongoing work to support R1 and R2 projects and monitoring. (u)
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Work across the West of England, through the Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy and implementation of the LNRS, to create high quality, biodiverse places that support access to nature and encourage health and wellbeing. (u/n)

Together with WENP and the Forest of Avon Trust, renew and continue to accelerate action in delivering the Forest of Avon Plan. Includes investment of £730,000 for the Forest of Avon Trust for woodland creation, including 50,000 broadleaf trees in diverse habitats. Support stage 1 application for a National Forest in the region. (u)

Deliver a targeted engagement and mobilisation programme for businesses on nature. This will support businesses of all sizes, across different sectors to help restore nature-depleted areas within our region and reduce wider negative impacts on nature. (n)

### Business and Skills

Engage a diverse range of small & medium sized (SME) businesses and charities, including those impacted by the cost of living crisis, to provide energy bill reduction and energy saving advice; including carrying out up to 850 additional free carbon surveys. (u)

Disseminate and implement findings of the Low Carbon Business Evidence Base to increase our understanding of the scale of the challenge and support needed to decarbonise small & medium sized enterprises in the region. (u)

Deliver a focussed Growth Hub route to advise SMEs on net zero journeys with a year-on-year increase in the number of businesses supported. (u)

Publish/Take key outputs from SWNZH Able to Pay Retrofit Fund report and develop internal report for CA to inform decisions for retrofit finance in 24/25. (u)

Support the green focus of delivery of the Made Smarter and BIF programmes. Consider working closer with the innovation team, following launch of the Plan for Innovation, to develop and deliver innovation elements that may improve/speed up delivery of the Action Plan. (u)

### Net Zero Energy

Support Bristol Energy Network to deliver £1.5m funding for Sustainable Innovative Finance Foundations for Wind Turbines (SIFFFT) to bring 10 sites to landowner agreement and 3 sites securing planning through a community led model across the region, providing a pipeline of up to 70MW of investable onshore wind projects with shared learning for other communities. (u)

Support Bristol Energy Co-op to deliver £569k for the South West Local Solar Scheme, to install over 2MW PV targeting rooftops of SMEs, schools and community buildings. (u)

Fund the freephone energy advice services for those struggling to afford their energy bills or live in warm homes across the West of England; ensuring households most in need are aware and can access energy advice (such as LEAD via the Hub). (u)
Continue progression of Local Energy Scheme round 1 & 2 capital projects and award round 3 community-led projects with up to £275k revenue development and £448k capital funding. (u)
Support public sector partners across the region developing major capital projects through the South West Net Zero Hub provision of free local technical assistance. (u)
Work with National Grid to bring forwards renewable generation approved but not yet operational renewable electricity generation. (u)
Explore innovative water sources of heating and cooling including from our harbours, rivers and sea. (u)
Input into Severn Estuary tidal energy commission via Western Gateway. (u)
Convene industrial partners in delivering the West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan - planning Portbury, Avonmouth and Severnside industries net zero future. (u)
Develop a regional investment plan with partners across the West of England involved in Mission Net Zero; and the West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan. (u)
Engage National Grid strategically in planning delivery of energy infrastructure and net zero implementation, including the establishment of the Regional Energy System Planner for the region. (u)
Community Energy Fund (CEF): Ongoing CEF application windows throughout 2024, and management of funded schemes. CE work more broadly: 'Future of the Community Energy Sector in the South West' report to recommend additional activities to support and grow the CE sector across West of England as part of the SW. (u)

## Climate Resilience

Produce a roadmap for developing the West of England Climate Atlas – a mapping tool exploring climate risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities - working with end users and mapping experts to test and shape ideas. (n)
Produce the West of England climate adaptation report for submission to Defra (ARP4 local government pilot) covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Regional governance, roles &amp; responsibilities</li> <li>-Initial screening - risks, actions, evidence</li> <li>-Regional priorities</li> </ul>

-Showcase action by local councils & regional partners -Strategic action to accelerate adaptation (n)
Support the local councils in the delivery of climate resilience through regional training workshops, shared learning, adaptation health checks, and building a business case for local action. (u)
Produce a high-level MCA screening checklist to guide the embedding of climate resilience across the authority's functions, and for sharing with local councils and regional partners. (n)
Develop an engagement programme bringing together the local councils & key regional partners. (u)
Support the development of a regional flood strategy covering institutional and governance arrangements, unlocking funding for priority projects, and enabling conditions for change. (u)
Pilot tools for embedding climate resilience into the regeneration of Bristol Temple Quarter, creating a toolkit for other redevelopment & capital projects in the region and showcasing best practice. (n)
Develop a Climate Ready Business demonstrator to learn lessons and catalyse innovation in retrofitting businesses for improved climate resilience. Our regional engagement with businesses will feed into the selection of locations for the demonstrator project. (n)
Develop a Climate Ready Retrofit demonstrator to learn lessons and catalyse innovation in retrofitting homes for improved climate resilience. Our regional engagement with communities will feed into the selection of locations for the demonstrator project. (u)
Review action already underway which is building our regional resilience to major climate hazards, producing good practice case studies for sharing, inspiration, and inclusion on our website. (n)
Review of mapping resources describing the region's exposure to major climate hazards, producing a selection of maps for inclusion on our environmental data portal. (n)
Disseminate key information from the ARP report through the production of online regional resources/infographics. (n)