

SCC Air Quality Strategy and action plan: Highlight Report

Quarter 2 2023/24 (July – September 2023)

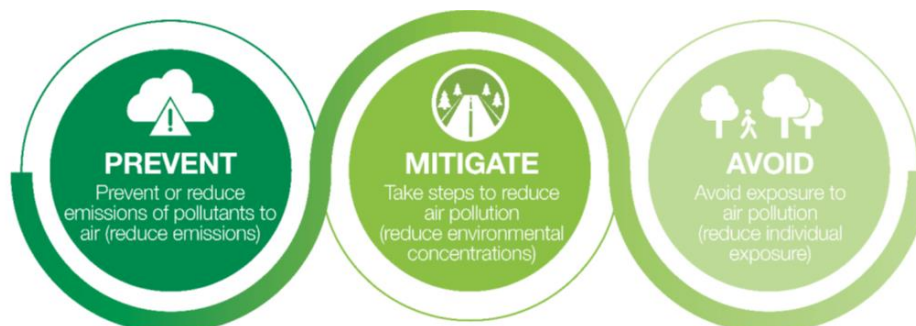
Suffolk County Council published its Air Quality Strategy and action plan in May 2023. It consolidates the levers that the County Council has to address air pollution across Suffolk and reduce the health risks associated with poor air quality.

This report provides a summary of the key quarter 2 progress highlights towards each of the eight strategic objectives that the strategy aims to achieve through its action plan (page 2-3), followed by a summary of key areas of added value, concern, and quarter 3 milestones (page 4). A progress report against the full action plan is included at appendix 1 at the end of this document.

The strategic objectives are:

- 1. Partnership working:** encourage and develop closer working relationships around air quality with internal and external partners in the public, private and VCSE sectors.
- 2. Sustainable and active travel:** promote and enable a modal shift from car travel to active and sustainable forms of transport.
- 3. Traffic- and congestion-related emissions:** explore and implement measures to reduce traffic- and congestion-related emissions.
- 4. Carbon reduction:** support and enable homes and businesses to reduce carbon emissions and reduce fossil-based fuel use.
- 5. Policy-level approach:** where appropriate, use available opportunities to include air quality in policies and strategies.
- 6. Monitoring and enforcement:** ensure that decisions and measures relating to air quality are being implemented and enforced as intended.
- 7. Environmental and Green Space Management:** use effective green space management to improve air quality in both indoor and outdoor environments, and enable developments to be more adaptive to climate change.
- 8. Behaviour change and communication:** use behavioural science to promote positive behaviour change around air quality and carbon reduction within businesses and the general public.

The strategy also adopts the [Public Health England \(2020\)](#) air pollution intervention hierarchy, which is a way of prioritising interventions to address air pollution. It means that measures aimed at preventing or reducing air pollution emissions are prioritised over actions to reduce air pollution after it has occurred (mitigation) or actions that rely on avoiding air pollution.



Key highlights in quarter 2 2023/24:

<u>Strategic Objective</u>	<u>Action no.</u>	<u>Summary progress update</u>
Partnership working	4	<p>Further discussions have taken place to progress the development of a Suffolk Air Quality Network, which will create a network of connections to enhance current and future work across the County. A meeting has been scheduled on 21st November (Q3) which will act as a 'soft launch' to discuss developments in the last year since the Air Quality Challenge Lab. At this meeting we will seek agreement on the concept / scope of a Suffolk Air Quality Network, provide updates on projects and discuss future initiatives. If, at this meeting, there is support for the network, it will be fully launched in March / April 2024.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place with the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) to identify where partners carrying out community visits across Ipswich town centre might reduce their air pollution emissions. These discussions will continue into Q3, with further discussions due to take place at the Ipswich and East Suffolk Alliance Committee meeting. Similar discussions are also due to take place through the West Suffolk Alliance Committee meeting.</p> <p>An Air Quality Councillor Q&A session took place on 8 September for SCC elected members, covering the health impacts of air quality and what is being done across SCC to tackle it through the recently published SCC Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan.</p>
Sustainable and active travel	15	<p>31 loan bikes have been made available to pupils at Phoenix St Peter Primary School in Lowestoft for pupils who do not currently have access to a bike. In November 2023, Bikeability training will be provided to the pupils and their parents / carers will be provided with basic bike maintenance sessions to enable them to maintain the bikes themselves. A fixed-term schools engagement role has been created to promote active travel and Bikeability in schools which is currently subject to recruitment.</p>
	20	<p>A policy review has been completed to lower the threshold against which Active Travel Plans are required in response to planning applications for new developments. Active Travel Plans will now be required for new development applications of 50 or more (previously 80), and that all developments of 10 or more dwellings will be required to produce a sustainable transport statement. This is expected to come into force in January 2024.</p>
Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	11	<p>Support has been provided through the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (SCEP) to EcoCarriers in Bury St Edmunds, who are now working with local retailers to offer shoppers delivery of high street items by e-cargo bike to their homes later that day. Debenham Green Team have also been given approval to loan a cargo bike in December to deliver local items to village residents in the 2-week period before Christmas.</p>

	16	<p>The commencement of Suffolk's first School Street scheme at Ranelagh Road Primary School in Ipswich has been delayed until January 2024 and will initially involve road closure at school drop off and pick up times, rather than a permanent closure. A school street at Morland Primary School in Ipswich has now been scoped and is anticipated to launch in Q4. Work in relation to Cliff Lane Primary in Ipswich is ongoing.</p> <p>A bid to Defra's Air Quality Grant Scheme was submitted for a proposal which includes funding for 10 additional school streets. The decision about whether this was successful is expected in Q4.</p>
Carbon reduction	8	<p>The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) is establishing a Schools network, with a funding bid submitted to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) for a Schools Sustainability Lead. 70 schools have now been supported through the environmental consultancy provided by Groundwork.</p> <p>A Youth Climate Conference was delivered in July which was attended by 85 youth delegates, teachers, representatives of local environmental organisations and community groups, with guest speaker Megan McCubbin, an English zoologist, conservationist, photographer, and television presenter. The conference empowered the youth delegates to discover their agency, identify actionable steps towards effecting change, and become the driving force that Suffolk and the broader nation require to address the climate emergency.</p>
Policy-level approach	3	<p>The initial draft of the LTP4 is now being finalised. Further input on AQ will be required once a final draft version is available. We are still awaiting updated guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT), which will set out guidance on Quantified Carbon Assessments. We plan to consult on the LTP4 in early 2024, subject to the DfT releasing their guidelines promptly.</p>
Monitoring and enforcement	22	<p>There have been no reported breaches of air quality standards across minerals and waste sites. As a result, no further investigations have been undertaken.</p>
Environmental and green space management	27	<p>Provisional award of funding for further tree planting has been received from the Local Authority Treescape Fund (LATF), subject to HMT (Treasury) confirmation. Some of this planting will take place in Ipswich but is not targeted in areas where there are AQMAs.</p>
Behaviour change and communication	5	<p>Engagement activity continued this quarter with attendance at the One Big Multicultural Festival, Sudbury Family Fun Day and Ipswich Family Fun Days. Data analysis and focus group work will commence in Q3.</p>

Key areas of added value:

- 29 September 2023 saw Suffolk County Council submit its first joint bid with District and Borough Councils for £545,701 in funding from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs' Air Quality Grant. The funding bid is for a 2-year project aiming to reduce pollution exposure, particularly amongst Suffolk's most vulnerable residents, and encourage behaviour change to reduce emissions. Decisions about whether funding has been awarded will be notified in March 2024. Even if we are not successful, the process of engaging with partners about potential projects has enabled a better collective understanding of what could be done, should resources ever become available.
- We have continued to build relationships with stakeholders and partners (both internally and externally) and align our air quality work with other key projects such as Beat the Streets to maximise opportunities to increase awareness.

Key concerns:

- Some of our partners do not have the resource to commit to proactive engagement work. SCC Public Health and Communities is facilitating the coordination of work across partners as far as possible, however the limited resource creates a risk that initiatives and campaigns may not be as effective as they could be which needs to be considered in the planning of future work.
- Our events over the summer months were selected based on where we would have the opportunity to reach the most people and more specifically reach our target groups. This meant the majority of the events we attended were in Ipswich (Indian Summer Mela, Ipswich Music Festival, One Big Multicultural Day). There were a number of events we identified in other parts of the County which we would have liked to attend had we had the capacity / resource to do so. We recognise however this has led to a gap in our engagement data from East and West Suffolk which we are addressing in Q3 and Q4 through alternative means.

Key quarter 3 milestones:

1. Soft launch of the Suffolk Air Quality Network (action no. 4)
2. Presentations to the SNEE Ipswich and East Suffolk Alliance Committee and West Suffolk Alliance Committee meetings to discuss how health and care partners can reduce their air pollution emissions (action no. 4)
3. Commencement of focus group engagement work and engagement data analysis (action no. 5)
4. Further discussions with providers of a scoping exercise to explore evidence-based initiatives to reduce congestion-related transport emissions and improve air quality (action no. 9)
5. Commencement of Suffolk's first School Street at Ranelagh Road Primary School in Ipswich (action no. 16)
6. Publication of Suffolk County Council's EV Infrastructure Strategy (action. 18)

SCC Air Quality Strategy - action plan progress reporting sheet 2023/24

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Action no.	Date added	Date changed	Date removed	Theme	Objective	Action	Lead team	Timeframe: Short term (12 months or less) or long term (more than 12 months)	Measurement / outcome	Status (Not started / Ongoing / Complete)	Prevent / Mitigate / Avoid	Links to other relevant areas / actions being led by partners	Reporting officer(s)	Progress update 2023/24	
														Q1	Q2
1	May-23			Strategic	Policy-level approach	Conduct a mapping exercise to identify whether relevant internal and external policies include reference to / use of air quality data	Suffolk Public Health and Communities – Wider Determinants team	Short and long term	Mapping exercise completed that enables a better understanding of where there are gaps and opportunities for further engagement around air quality	Not started	All		Lead: Emma Brinkley Backup: Rosie Welch	A systematic mapping exercise has not yet commenced, however opportunities have been taken up to ensure that air quality is referenced (or data used) where appropriate. These include on district and borough Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and the SCC Local Transport Plan (LTP). The systematic exercise is due to commence in quarter 3 2023/24. Air quality and health data inputted into the Ipswich PDP to aid understanding of issues in this area. Air quality profile recommendations reviewed and incorporated into Air Quality Strategy and Engagement workstreams.	A systematic mapping exercise has not yet started (see Q1 update), it is due to commence in quarter 3 2023/24.
2	May-23	19/07/2023 Emma Dixon confirmed as backup		Strategic	Policy-level approach	Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (SCEP) – develop a mechanism to systematically include air quality data to strengthen relevant SCEP funding proposals	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Waste and Environment team	Short term	Development of a mechanism to systematically include air quality data in SCEP funding proposals	Not started	All	Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan	Lead: David Walton Backup: Emma Dixon	Awaiting relevant funding opportunity so that a model can be developed as part of that, and as a template for subsequent opportunities	As Q1: Awaiting relevant funding opportunity so that a model can be developed as part of that, and as a template for subsequent opportunities
3	May-23	29/09/2023 - removed Joseph Hough from backup reporter		Strategic	Policy-level approach	Suffolk Local Transport Plan – determine the measures for air quality data to be included in the quantified carbon assessments for Department for Transport	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Transport Strategy team	Short and long term	Inclusion of air quality data in quantified carbon assessments	Ongoing	All	Suffolk Local Transport Plan	Lead: Luke Barber Backup: Calum Poole	Initial draft of the LTP4 is now in progress, with input on AQ from the wider team. We are still awaiting updated guidance from the DT, which will set out guidance on Quantified Carbon Assessments. We plan to consult on the LTP4 in early 2024, subject to the DT releasing their guidelines promptly.	Initial draft of the LTP4 is now being finalised, with further input on AQ required when we have a final draft version. We are still awaiting updated guidance from the DT, which will set out guidance on Quantified Carbon Assessments. We plan to consult on the LTP4 in early 2024, subject to the DT releasing their guidelines promptly.
4	May-23			Strategic	Partnership working	Identify an appropriate lead for air quality within relevant county council directorates and in each of the district and borough councils so that opportunities to work in partnership are maximised Develop and initiate a systematic partnership engagement plan	Suffolk Public Health and Communities – Wider Determinants team	Short term	Appropriate lead(s) are identified for each organisation Systematic partnership engagement plan developed and initiated	Ongoing	All	West Suffolk Council Ipswich Borough Council East Suffolk Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council	Lead: Emma Brinkley Backup: Rosie Welch	Opportunities to work in partnership continue to be identified. This quarter the Wider Determinants Lead attended: - the SNEE ICP Expo in July to co-present with the SNEE ICB Sustainability Lead on the health impacts of AQ and what their organisations can do to reduce emissions - the SNEE ICP Board meeting in August to co-present with the SNEE ICB Sustainability Lead about the health impacts of AQ and start a discussion about how community teams travelling around Ipswich for visits can help support air quality by reducing emissions, and - the Ipswich and East Suffolk Alliance MDT meeting with the SNEE ICB Sustainability Lead to progress the initial conversation at the ICP Board meeting, where air quality improvement measures such as route optimisation, EVs, and use of telehealth visits was discussed. A number of actions are now being considered by these partners and further discussions due to take place at future West Suffolk Alliance meeting in November and the Ipswich and East Alliance meeting in December (Q3) Appropriate leads for AQ across partners have been identified. Opportunities to work in partnership are being identified through various workstreams. E.g., the Wider Determinants Team sit in on the Suffolk Air Quality Officers Group and Ipswich Borough Council Air Quality Steering Group meetings with relevant leads from the borough and districts. A Suffolk Air Quality Network made up of appropriate leads and stakeholders from across the county is being explored with the University of Suffolk. A mapping document has been drafted which sets out the role and added value of a Suffolk Air Quality Network. A systematic partnership engagement plan has not yet been developed but will be scoped out once a decision has been made re the Suffolk AQ Network to understand where further opportunities are required. However, Borough and District ASRs have been reviewed to identify opportunities for joint working and understand barriers to engagement - resource identified as one of the biggest barriers. In addition, SCC officers attended the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board on 18th May to present an update on the air quality work programme which has led to further discussions being planned in Q2 with organisations represented on the Board about how they can reduce their air pollution emissions.	Further meetings relating to the Suffolk Air Quality Network have taken place this quarter with the University of Suffolk. The main objective of a Network is around partnership engagement - to create a network of connections to enhance work already happening across the County. A meeting is being scheduled on 21st November (Q3) which will act as a 'soft launch' to discuss developments a year on from the Air Quality Challenge Lab. At this meeting we will look to seek agreement on the concept/scope of a Suffolk Air Quality Network, provide updates on projects and discuss future initiatives. If, at this meeting, there is support the network will be fully set up in March 2024 with a formal launch. A systematic partnership engagement plan has not yet been developed but will be scoped out once a decision has been made in November regarding the Suffolk AQ Network, and once the policy mapping exercise has been completed (see action no. 1) to understand where further opportunities to embed Air Quality concerns are available. An Air Quality Councilor Q&A session took place on 8 September attended by Councilors from across Suffolk. The session covered health impacts of air quality and what is being done across SCC to tackle it through the recently published SCC Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan.
5	May-23			Strategic	Behaviour change and communication	Develop and deliver a public engagement plan to raise awareness of the health impacts of air quality and how individuals can make choices that protect their health and the health of others from the effects of air pollution	Suffolk Public Health and Communities – Wider Determinants team	Short term	Development and delivery of public engagement plan	Ongoing	All	West Suffolk Council Ipswich Borough Council East Suffolk Council Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council	Lead: Emma Brinkley Backup: Rosie Welch	An engagement plan has been developed with input and feedback from partners and was signed off in April 2023. Engagement activity has commenced this quarter with a focus group discussion with the Bury St Edmunds Breathe Easy Group, Clean Air Day 2023 events and attendance at a number of public events including the Needham Market Walking and Cycling Festival, the Indian Summer Mela and the Ipswich Music Day, with further events being scheduled for quarter 2.	Engagement activity continued this quarter with attendance at the One Big MultiCultural Festival, Sudbury Family Fun Day and Ipswich Family Fun Days. Data analysis and focus group work will commence in Q3.
6	May-23	19/07/2023 Teresa Howarth removed from backup		Homes and Businesses	Carbon reduction	Warm Homes, Healthy People / Warm Homes Suffolk – enabling homes to become more energy efficient	Suffolk Retro-fit Team / Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Waste and Environment team Suffolk Public Health and Communities – Wider Determinants team	Short and long term	Number of homes receiving energy efficiency retrofit measures.	Ongoing	Prevent	Warm Homes, Healthy People / Warm Homes Suffolk.	Lead: Matthew Ling Backup: Gary Crockett	Awaiting completions info which is anticipated towards the end of August 2023 for two of the three main schemes - this will be reported in Q2. Further resource is being committed to the scheme which will enable data to be captured more quickly for the reporting in Q2.	We still await the completions data - lots of surveys have been carried out but installations are taking longer than anticipated. Data will be reported in a future quarter once it becomes available. A Senior Project Manager is due to start on 23rd November which should assist in future data reporting.
7	May-23	08-06-2023 - split action into separate actions for businesses and schools and assigned the schools one to Ned Harrison (signed off by PW 17/8) 19/07/2023 Peter Frost confirmed as backup by David Walton		Homes and Businesses	Carbon reduction	Working with businesses – via the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) – to increase awareness of their impact on air quality	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Waste and Environment team	Short and long term	Businesses to engage in a range of energy-saving behaviours to reduce emissions.	Ongoing	Prevent	West Suffolk Council Clean Air Business Accreditation Scheme SCEP Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Carbon Charter	Lead: David Walton Backup: Peter Frost	The Carbon Charter was launched by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency in 2010 as a means for local businesses to have their achievements verified and has since evolved into Suffolk's well-known hub for business sustainability. It provides support and recognition to businesses throughout Suffolk as they take positive action towards net zero. Providing a benchmark for sustainable business, the network continues to develop an ever-growing suite of resources available to all. There are currently more than 180 active businesses making a clear and visible statement of their commitment to reducing the environmental impact of their operations. Holding the certification has become a recognised mark of sustainable business in Suffolk. The 25 by 25 campaign sets an ambitious target for Suffolk businesses to engage with the Net Zero journey, and poses a challenge to aim for a 25% reduction in their carbon emissions by 2025. Businesses making the pledge receive access to support to help them achieve their goal, along with a detailed information pack. A conference was recently hosted in partnership with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce to showcase best practice. The Net Zero Business consultancy, in partnership with Groundwork East, provides fully flexible expert support to Suffolk SMEs around any aspect of their net zero journey. Nearly 300 businesses have been supported on everything from footprint calculation to building management systems, from battery storage to EVs.	Messaging relating to the importance of the need for businesses to consider Air Quality was shared through the Carbon Charter business network in their September edition: https://carboncharter.org/the-september-2023-charter-newsletter-is-here/
8	Jun-23	08-06/2023 - new action added (split from 7 above) and assigned to Ned Harrison (signed off by PW 17/8) 27-06-23 additional outcome added re Eco Schools 31/07/2023 Lead team amended from SCPP to Env. Strategy Team as this better reflects the SCC team taking this forward		Homes and Businesses	Carbon reduction	Working with schools – via the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership (SCCP) – to increase awareness of their impact on air quality	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Environment Strategy Team	Short and long term	Schools to engage in a range of energy-saving behaviours to reduce emissions. Number of schools that have become Eco Schools	Ongoing	Prevent	SCEP Suffolk Climate Change Partnership	Lead: Ned Harrison Backup: Lianne Fountain	The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership hosts a range of information for schools at https://www.greensuffolk.org/schools/ , including information around Air Quality specifically. Some support and guidance has been provided by district and borough councils, such as West Suffolk's anti-idling campaign. The Youth Climate Conference was delivered in July, which was attended by 85 youth delegates, accompanied by teachers, representatives of local environmental organisations and community groups, with guest speaker Megan McCubbin, an English zoologist, conservationist, photographer, and television presenter in attendance. The conference empowered the youth delegates to discover their agency, identify actionable steps towards effecting change, and become the driving force that Suffolk and the broader nation require to address the climate emergency. Early planning work for a Youth Skills conference 2024 has now commenced. 70 schools have been supported through the environmental consultancy provided by Groundwork.	The Youth Climate Conference was delivered in July, which was attended by 85 youth delegates, accompanied by teachers, representatives of local environmental organisations and community groups, with guest speaker Megan McCubbin, an English zoologist, conservationist, photographer, and television presenter in attendance. The conference empowered the youth delegates to discover their agency, identify actionable steps towards effecting change, and become the driving force that Suffolk and the broader nation require to address the climate emergency.
9	May-23	31/7/23 changed action from 'not started' to 'ongoing'		Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Scope out evidence-based initiatives to reduce congestion-related transport emissions and improve air quality	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Transport Strategy team	Short term	Completion of scoping exercise	Ongoing	Prevent	Local Transport Plan	Lead / backup: Carl Ashton Lead / backup: Luke Barber	Some officer conversations have taken place but no detailed work has yet to take place. Further discussions with potential providers are scheduled for the end of July 2023.	Two meetings with WSP have now taken place to scope out work and a proposal has been received from WSP. After Officer discussion about the proposal, a potential alternative provider is also now being considered to ensure best use of public money. Further discussion are due to take place throughout Q3.
10	May-23	08-06-2023 - changed lead from Matthew Ling to Ned Harrison		Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Change SCC small fleet to EV by 2024	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Environment Strategy Team	Short and long term	% of SCC small fleet vehicles that are EV	Ongoing	Prevent	Local Transport Plan	Lead: Ned Harrison Backup: Lianne Fountain	SCC has taken delivery of 16 fully electric pool cars as part of the transition to a fully electric pool car fleet by 2024/5. Work is ongoing to understand the transition of other small vehicles within the council fleet.	26 of 42 vehicles now fully electric, with an order placed for the remaining vehicles, meaning the council's pool car fleet will be fully electric by the end of the Financial Year.
11	May-23	29/09/2023 - removed Ellie Brown as backup reporter		Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Encourage businesses to change to Low Emission Delivery vehicles	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Behaviour Change Team (Transport Strategy Team)	Short and long term	Businesses to transition from fossil fuel freight to zero-emission vehicles	Ongoing	Prevent	SCEP Carbon Charter Local Transport Plan	Lead: Chris Grover Backup: TBC	There is currently limited ability to influence this other than through e-cargo bike trials. One bike is being used by Suffolk Wildlife Trust for community engagement sessions, and one is being used by EcoCarriers in BSE to increase 'last mile delivery' capability (and further plans for a 'shop and drop' market stall). One bike is also being used as a demonstrator for events, based in Ipswich. However, we are in discussion with an e-cargo delivery organisation in Colchester who working with some of the bigger delivery firms - e.g. DHL - about including Ipswich as an additional connection in their route between London and Chelmsford / Colchester.	Support has been provided through SCEP to EcoCarriers in Bury St. Edmunds. They have recruited local retailers including M&S to produce a video promoting the benefits of a service that they now offer. Shoppers can purchase items in the town centre shops and drop them at EcoCarriers market stall for onward delivery to their homes by e-cargo bike later that day. This also relates to action no. 12. Debenham Green Team are being supported with a loan cargo bike in December when they will be doing deliveries around the village from retailers in the village for a period of 2 weeks ahead of Christmas.
12	May-23	31/7/23 - marked as complete as initial scoping exercise completed - a potential replacement action to be discussed with GH / Cllr West 21/11/23 - reinstated action as further scoping work needs to happen as agreed with Cllr West 20/11/23 and amended status to 'ongoing'		Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Scope out how and where first / last mile delivery initiatives could be considered	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure – Transport Strategy team	Short term	Completion of scoping exercise	Ongoing	Prevent	SCEP Carbon Charter Local Transport Plan	Lead / backup: Carl Ashton Lead / backup: Luke Barber	Previous work carried out in 2019 & 2020 and a scoping exercise was completed on behalf of the SCEP in 2022. This looked at where first mile / last mile delivery would work in Suffolk and Ipswich. This would need significant capital investment to start up, working with the private sector coupled with traffic regulation orders to restrict motorised access in some areas. Further officer and member discussion will happen in Q2 to identify potential next steps / action.	Early work has taken place to look at the procurement of a supplier and potential clients and this is ongoing, and further discussions due to take place in Q3 to agree next steps to take this forward. This is a long term project that will take a considerable level of officer resource to establish.

13	May-23		Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Incentive use of public transport (train, park and ride, bus)	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Passenger Transport team	Short and long term	Citizens who are able, to swap car journeys for public transport	Ongoing	Prevent	Suffolk Design Guide for Residential Areas SCEP Local Transport Plan D&B walking and cycling strategies ESC Cycling and Walking Strategy	Lead: Timothy Stephenson Backup: Susan Dawey	<p>Like all Local Transport Authorities, Suffolk County Council has a bus services improvement plan (BSIP). A link to our BSIP can be found here: https://www.suffolkonboard.com/buses/suffolk-enhanced-partnership/</p> <p>The BSIP lists our plans and aspirations for local transport in Suffolk and links to our current thinking on Active Travel and the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>For example: one initiative we are considering is the introduction of travel hubs. This is where communities who currently don't have a bus service (and who may be more likely to use their own car) can work together with Suffolk County Council and a local provider - e.g. taxi, community transport, local charity etc - to link in to the existing bus network. This has the potential to fill isolated communities out of 'transport deserts' which has benefits to social inclusion, access, well being, mental health and helps combat isolation. This is very important nationally but very relevant locally due to the rural nature of much of Suffolk.</p> <p>Suffolk County Council is a lead member of the Suffolk Enhance Partnership, other members include bus companies, user groups, community transport providers and district council reps.</p> <p>Suffolk has recently been granted £1.8m of revenue funding to deliver some parts of its BSIP. That funding and the terms and conditions of how it can be used have not yet arrived in Suffolk but we should know more by Q2. This funding will potentially enable us to incentivise the use of public transport in rural areas.</p>	We now have the £1.8m for this financial year and we expect a further £1.8m for next financial year. The funding can be used to maintain, develop or introduce bus services, we are engaging with bus operators, and communities, to see where the funding can be best spent. We cannot use the funding for 'capital' (e.g. buses etc.)
14	May-23	08-06-2023 - changed lead from Carl Ashton to Chris Grover (and amended lead team to suit) 20092023 - removed Ellie Brown as backup reporter	Transport	Sustainable and active travel	Incentive other modes of transport (walking / cycling)	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Behaviour Change Team (Transport Strategy Team)	Short and long term	Citizens who are able, to swap car journeys for walking / cycling Citizens who are able, to swap car journeys for cycles / e-bikes	Ongoing	Prevent	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Sustainable and Active Travel Plans	Lead: Chris Grover Backup:	<p>We currently have 30 e-bikes on trial across the county. There has been some positive feedback in relation to these, with at least 2 people committing to purchase / lease their own ebike. A trial for SCC staff is planned.</p> <p>There may be opportunities for additional cycling and walking initiatives through the Social Prescribing Pilot launched in June - a further update on this will be provided in Q2.</p>	Continuing trial of ebikes with additional 10 ebikes and 6 conventional bikes now available for use by individuals accessing the active travel social prescribing pilot.
15	May-23	08-06-2023 - changed lead from Carl Ashton to Chris Grover (and amended lead team to suit) 20092023 - removed Ellie Brown as backup reporter	Transport	Sustainable and active travel	Modal Shift Accreditation - work with schools to encourage alternative modes of travel to school	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Behaviour Change Team (Transport Strategy Team)	Short and long term	Citizens who are able, to swap car journeys for walking / cycling Citizens who are able, to swap car journeys for cycles / e-bikes Citizens who are able, to swap car journeys for public transport Citizens who drive, to share car journeys	Ongoing	Prevent	SCEP Local Transport Plan	Lead: Chris Grover Backup:	<p>A walking bus has been set up at Cliff Lane Primary in Ipswich. We also now have 23 schools accredited on Modeshift STARS.</p>	Currently going through recruitment for a 12 month role to work exclusively with schools promoting active travel and bikeability. 21 loan bikes provided to pupils at Phoenix St. Peter primary in Lowestoft for 12 months as the pupils don't have access to bikes. Bikeability training to be provided to them in November 2023 along with basic bike maintenance sessions for parents / carers.
16	May-23	08-06-2023 - changed lead from Carl Ashton to Chris Grover (and amended lead team to suit) 20092023 - removed Ellie Brown as backup reporter	Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Work with schools to improve air quality around schools	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Behaviour Change Team (Transport Strategy Team)	Short and long term	Improved air quality around schools	Ongoing	Prevent	Local Transport Plan WSC ESC BMSDC IBC	Lead: Chris Grover Backup:	<p>We have just had approval to deliver Suffolk's first School Street scheme which is due to start in September 2023 at Ranelagh Road Primary in Ipswich. Pollution monitors were installed at Ranelagh Road Primary by SRI, on Clean Air Day (15th June) which will provide baseline data for air pollution in the immediate surrounding area and enable us to assess the impact of the school street. However the real impact of this will not be seen until Q3 due to the summer holidays.</p> <p>Morland Primary in Ipswich is also keen for a school street to be introduced, which is currently being scoped.</p> <p>Opportunities are being explored with other schools, e.g. in Eye, and walking bus has been set up at Cliff Lane Primary.</p>	Due to a representation made by a local organisation raising concerns about the closure of Paul's Road, the School Street at Ranelagh Road Primary has been postponed until January 2024 and will initially take the form of a 'drop off and pick up' closure rather than a permanent closure. A School Street has now been scoped at Morland Primary which expected to come into action in Q4 2023. Scoping work in relation to a School Street at Cliff Lane is ongoing.
17	May-23		Transport	Traffic- and congestion-related emissions	Review of travel associated with leisure time to identify potential opportunities to incentivise journeys / encourage behaviour change	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Transport Strategy team	Long term	Review exercise carried out and potential opportunities identified	Not started	Prevent	Local Transport Plan	Lead / backup: Carl Ashton Lead / backup: Luke Barber	<p>No significant progress has been made in relation to this to date, due to lack of local data available that would inform potential initiatives. National Travel Survey data gives information on leisure journeys, however any data extracted would be national and not Suffolk-specific. Work is currently taking place to improve the method for assessing leisure trips in transport modelling; although this is also based on National Travel Survey Data, it would potentially allow an output of journey times associated with leisure trips. This would be based on modelling outputs and not actual data, but might enable some insight into travel patterns for journeys associated with leisure time and where opportunities for behaviour change may lie.</p> <p>It is worth noting that trips associated with leisure time is unlikely to have a significant impact on our Suffolk AQMAs and as such is unlikely to be prioritised while other actions are delivered. However, modelling data will be reviewed once available.</p>	The Behaviour Change Team are working with Suffolk Growth Partnership and district councils to identify some initial 'Good Journey' venues / locations for the leisure industry. This scheme aims to reward the public for travelling sustainably to a venue through incentives such as a free hot drink. The scheme is expected to commence Jan 2024 (CG).
18	May-23	08-06-2023 - combined with previous no. 19 which had standard and ultra charging stations listed separately - now combined into one action (signed off by PW 17/8)	Transport	Carbon reduction	Development of standard EV Charging Stations and Ultra-Rapid Charging Stations across the county	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Environment Strategy Team	Long term	Number of standard EV charging stations per head of Suffolk population Number of rapid EV charging stations per head of Suffolk population	Ongoing	Prevent	SCEP Local Transport Plan	Lead: Matthew Ling Backup: Chloe Robison-Smith	<p>The EV Infrastructure Strategy report is currently being drafted. We are awaiting government funding (LEVI) which will enable us to deliver projects that increase the number of public chargers available in Suffolk.</p> <p>Data on the number of charge points is published quarterly at https://www.gov.uk/transport/low-emission-and-electric-vehicles</p> <p>Total Charge Points = 362, 47.4 per 100,000 population (Jan 2023) Babergh 47.3/100k East Suffolk 37.3/100k Ipswich 40.1/100k Mid Suffolk 28/100k West Suffolk 78/100k</p> <p>Total Charge Points = 413, 54.1 per 100,000 population (April 2023) Rapid or higher 78, 10.2/100k population Babergh 59.3/100k - Rapid+ 18, 19.4/100k East Suffolk 42.9/100k Rapid+ 19, 7.3/100k Ipswich 45.8/100k Rapid+ 5, 3.5/100k Mid Suffolk 30.0/100k Rapid+ 4, 3.9/100k West Suffolk 86.8/100k Rapid+ 33, 18.3/100k</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-july-2023</p> <p>Total Charge Points = (July 2023) 434, 56.9 per 100,000 population Rapid or higher 82, 10.7/100k population</p> <p>Babergh 52, 56.1/100k - Rapid+ 15, 16.2/100k East Suffolk 109, 44.2/100k - Rapid+ 17, 6.9/100k Ipswich 72, 51.6/100k - Rapid+ 12, 8.6/100k Mid Suffolk 36, 34.8/100k - Rapid+ 4, 3.9/100k West Suffolk 165, 91.3/100k - Rapid+ 34, 18.8/100k</p>
19	May-23		Transport	Carbon reduction	Encouraging the public to switch to Low Emission Vehicles	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Environment Strategy Team	Short and long term	Citizens who own fossil fuel cars, to swap fossil fuel cars for electric Positive change in public perception of ability to charge EVs	Ongoing	Prevent	SCEP Local Transport Plan	Lead: Matthew Ling Backup: Chloe Robison-Smith	<p>While information about EV charging is available on the SCC website, there is no current activity to actively promote EVs to the public due to lack of funding.</p>	We are exploring options to work with external organisations to host EV events for 2024, aimed at businesses and the community in Suffolk. There will be opportunity to learn more about EVs, charging infrastructure and the chance to test drive some vehicles. Details are still TBC and in the very early stages.
20	May-23		Transport	Sustainable and active travel	Assess whether Active Travel Plans are required and acceptable in any planning applications for new developments or variations to existing permissions, and request them where appropriate in consultation responses	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Transport Strategy team	Short and long term	Active Travel Plans are requested in consultation responses where appropriate	Ongoing	Prevent	Local Transport Plan	Lead / backup: Carl Ashton Lead / backup: Luke Barber	<p>This is ongoing as part of our role as a statutory consultee in the planning process.</p> <p>A complete policy review is planned for August / September 2023 to simplify the process and look to increase developer funds available for active travel initiatives. Review meetings are being planned for August. We are looking to reduce the threshold at which plans are required from 50 dwellings to 50. A further update will be provided in quarter 2.</p>	A policy review has now been undertaken. New guidance is in process of being created which is expected to go 'live' in Jan 2024. This will lower the threshold for when a travel plan is needed to 50 dwellings and proposes that all developments of 10 or more dwellings will need to produce a sustainable transport statement. The guidance will also insist on more generous support from developers for free sustainable transport vouchers for residents and will place more stringent monitoring requirements on developers. Future travel plans will need to be delivered according to an SCC template making it easier for SCC staff to see when they fail to meet requirements.
21	May-23	08-06-2023 - amended lead from Carl Ashton to Chris Grover (and amended lead team to suit). Also amended action, outcome and status to better reflect how the work is happening and that it is ongoing 20092023 - removed Ellie Brown as backup reporter	Transport	Sustainable and active travel	Utilise opportunities to embed Active Travel Plans in existing developments	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Behaviour Change Team (Transport Strategy Team)	Short and long term	Active Travel Plans are requested in existing developments as opportunities arise	Ongoing	Prevent	Local Transport Plan	Lead: Chris Grover Backup:	<p>Opportunities to embed active travel plans in existing developments is being considered as part of the policy review referenced above in action no. 20.</p>	Opportunities have been considered. There is no formal mechanism within the National Planning Policy Framework to retrospectively require travel plans to be developed, unless a planning application is subsequently submitted for a variation to an existing permission. We will continue to engage with existing developments to encourage development of travel plans and sustainable travel within our wider community work.
22	May-23		Planning	Monitoring and enforcement	Managing and monitoring of developments determined by SCC (Minerals and Waste / Regulation 3 applications) to ensure that they comply with planning permissions	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Planning enforcement team	Short and long term	All reported incidents are investigated by monitoring and enforcement team.	Ongoing	All	Minerals and Waste Plan	Lead: Ross Walker Backup: Jo Lloyd	<p>We have had no reports of air quality breaches across our minerals and waste sites. As a result no further investigations have been undertaken.</p> <p>Site monitoring has been carried out in the last quarter but has not highlighted any air quality issues.</p>	We have had no reports of air quality breaches across our minerals and waste sites. As a result no further investigations have been undertaken.
23	May-23		Planning	Carbon reduction	Encouraging energy-efficient housing in new housing development applications	Suffolk Public Health and Communities - Wider Determinants team	Short and long term	Increase in availability of energy-efficient housing in new housing developments	Ongoing	Prevent	Suffolk Design Guide for Residential Areas Net Zero Carbon Toolkit WHO guidelines for indoor air quality	Lead: Emma Brinkley Backup: Rosie Welch	<p>The Wider Determinants team have attended a number of conferences which cover indoor air quality, most recently the East of England CYP Housing & Respiratory Health Webinar.</p> <p>The team are represented in the Public Health in Planning working group.</p> <p>In response to Neighbourhood Plan consultations, we routinely recommend developments are encouraged to have energy efficient solutions such as solar and heat pumps.</p> <p>We are currently exploring opportunities and emerging evidence relating to indoor air quality, however there is limited data available at present due to it being a new area of research. Indoor air quality is becoming an increasing priority as the use of open fires and wood burners to heat homes continues to rise.</p>	We are continuing to explore opportunities and emerging evidence relating to indoor air quality. We are also continuing to encourage use of energy efficient technologies to new builds through Neighbourhood Plans and in response to major pre-applications.
24	May-23	08-06-2023 - amended outcome to better reflect what is feasible (signed off by PW 17/8)	Planning	Sustainable and active travel	Encouraging sustainable travel choices by highlighting relevant policies	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Planning team	Short and long term	Local and neighbourhood plan policies include a focus on sustainable travel to help address air quality.	Ongoing	Mitigate	AQMA interactive map	Lead: Ross Walker Backup: Jo Lloyd	<p>Local and neighbourhood plans include reference to sustainable travel and we continue to make comments on sustainable travel when reviewing plan documents.</p>	Local and neighbourhood plans include reference to sustainable travel and we continue to make comments on sustainable travel when reviewing plan documents.
25	May-23		Green infrastructure	Environmental and Green Space Management	To deliver Biodiversity Net Gain through planning applications	SCC Planning team / SCC Ecologist / SCC Landscape Officer	Short and long term	To increase biodiversity net gain by 10 percent on all projects	Ongoing	Mitigate	Minerals and Waste Plan Suffolk's Nature Strategy Flood Risk Management Strategy - Sustainable Drainage Systems	Lead: Ross Walker Backup: Jo Lloyd	<p>Last year SCC made a commitment for 20% biodiversity net gain across the Suffolk housing programme through a joint venture with a developer.</p> <p>More widely, we encourage biodiversity net gain through planning applications, but this is currently not mandatory. It is expected that in November 2023 this will be made statutory by central Government. Meanwhile, interim guidance has been published.</p>	There has been a delay in implementing biodiversity net gain for development (from November 2023 until January 2024). We continue to be directed by the Suffolk interim Guidance for Biodiversity Net Gain during this interim period.
26	May-23	08-06-2023 - changed lead from Tim De Keyzer to Ned Harrison 27-06-23 removed 2nd outcome re 'Percentage target for arable land use change' as it does not apply to highway roadside spaces - may add a new action re farming at a later date (signed off by PW 17/8) 31/7/23 31/07/2023 Lead team amended from Natural and Historic Env Team to Env. Strategy Team to reflect the change in lead reporting officers	Green infrastructure	Environmental and Green Space Management	Explore the different options for incentives to using agricultural land to plant trees and hedgerows bordering highways	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Environment Strategy Team	Short and long term	Identification of available mechanisms / funding	Ongoing	Mitigate	Suffolk's Nature Strategy	Lead: Ned Harrison Backup: Liane Fountain	<p>Work is being taken forward as part of SCC's Nature Positive strategy, including through the new Highways contract with Milestone. Work to date has focused on mapping the opportunities across the council estate, as well as setting up the terms of the new delivery contract.</p>	Baseline work is ongoing to understand potential. County Farms terms revised to include an expectation around supporting environmental goals. A new post to support County Farms engagement in the Net Zero and Biodiversity agendas has been appointed.

27	May-23	<p>08-06-2023 - changed lead from Emma Brinkley to Tim De Keyzer</p> <p>21/7/23 - action and outcome amended to reflect focus on highways and AQMAs (signed off by PW 17/8)</p> <p>31/7/2023 lead team amended from Wider Determinants team to Natural and Historic Environment Team to reflect the change in lead reporting officers</p> <p>31/7/23 - changed to not started, since the work specifically in and around AQMAs has not yet started</p>	Green infrastructure	Environmental and Green Space Management	Working with partners around projects to plant species-appropriate trees in urban spaces where they have the greatest value for air quality, particularly in areas where AQMAs have been declared	Growth, Highways and Infrastructure - Natural and Historic Environment Team	Short term	Increase in canopy cover in urban spaces	Not started	Mitigate	<p>WSC</p> <p>ESC</p> <p>BMSDC</p> <p>IBC</p> <p>Greener Ipswich</p> <p>Green Suffolk - gardening for biodiversity</p>	Lead: Tim De Keyzer	<p>No action has specifically been taken on highways tree planting in AQMAs, though a commitment has been made through the Biodiversity PDP actions and this has been linked into the procurement process with Milestone who have recently been awarded Suffolk's new Highways Services contract due to begin in October.</p> <p>However, more generally, SCC continues to work with the district and borough councils to deliver planting schemes through the Local Authority Treescape Fund (LATF). This has resulted in c2500 trees being planted in both 21-22 and 22-23. A further pending application for LATF will enable a further c1900 trees to be planted in 23-24.</p>	Provisional award of funding for further tree planting has been received, although we are still awaiting HMT (Treasury) confirmation. Some of this planting will take place in Ipswich but is not targeted in areas where there are AQMAs.
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