Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action Plan 2022-2025



Climate action supporting sustainable growth

REDUCING INEQUALITIES

Residents supported to upgrade their homes heating and insulation through a £6.5m scheme starting in 2022, with extra support for those on low incomes

Funding for at least 20 communities to take their own local action to reach Net Zero emissions

Improving access to electric vehicle charging, with more public sites for when home charging isn't an option

Growth in 'cleantech' jobs in the northern part of the region as businesses grow around the University of Peterborough



HEALTH AND SKILLS

Retrofitting care homes through a £2m project so they protect our most vulnerable residents from extreme weather

Taking forward a green plan to make health and social care services climate resilient and improve health outcomes

Funding new training and learning opportunities for the workforce for the changing economy £2.5m on nature schemes will improve local access to nature and greenspace



CLIMATE AND NATURE

£1m fund to delivering nature-based solutions to climate problems (that also help restore biodiversity)

Link climate action with local nature recovery

£1.5m funding for local demonstration projects on biodiversity and chalk streams to show how different benefits can be combined

An ambition for a 20% increase in biodiversity from new developments



INNOVATION

Linking businesses with expertise on new climate-friendly technologies

Helping local businesses develop the capacity to thrive in a low carbon economy

Helping our agricultural sector adapt to the more variable and extreme weather

Linking cleantech businesses with large organisations, such as the NHS, to drive local innovation



INFRASTRUCTURE

Putting plans in place to ensure our energy systems generate and deliver renewable energy

More investment in a transport system that provides great walking, cycling, and low carbon public transport. Support the shift to electric vehicles

Investing in new infrastructure to maintain water supplies and biodiversity

Improving our flood resilience and helping local communities take action



FINANCE

Setting up a decarbonisation fund to help businesses and residents make changes

Establishing a nature fund to encourage more investment in nature-based solutions

Help maximise take-up of available grants and support across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Working with the finance sector to identify affordable ways to deliver climate action



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action Plan 2022-2025

The Final Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate looked at climate related risks, sources of greenhouse gases in the area and the ability of residents and businesses to respond. It made 58 recommendations to set the area on a pathway to net zero emissions and to prepare for climate change impacts. It complements the work of organisations on their own strategies and action plans. The Commission highlighted that significant reductions in emissions were needed early over the next ten years to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases collecting in the atmosphere.



What is the added value this action plan offers?

- The 58 recommendations of the Commission set out a wide range of actions covering multiple organisations, individual organisations and businesses (as well as residents). There will be thousands of individual decisions taken over the next few years on investment, upgrades or repairs. Collectively these will determine how successful the area is in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- Climate Action Plan has a focus on identifying and supporting strategic priorities and collaborative action, where more can be achieved working together or particular gaps addressed

What principles apply to determine the actions in this plan?

- Is the action establishing the crucial building blocks to support the whole range of recommendations?
- Is the action bigger than any one organisation to scope and/or deliver?
- Does the action directly cut carbon emissions or improve nature?
- Can the action deliver adaptation benefits in addition to carbon emissions or nature improvement with 'no regret' investment?
- Will the action have a strategic impact to make best use of the resources we have including tackling economic, social and health inequalities?



What this plan isn't?

This plan will not cover the climate commitments of individual organisations, we will assume actions under their direct control will be delivered. For example, the role Local Planning Authorities have in setting the climate policies for new built development. However, we will seek co-ordination and a collaborative approach where appropriate, to maximise our impact.

It does not include actions which are reliant on further government policy after 2025, such as exploring hydrogen-based option for homes.

Resourcing the plan?

Actions are needed across many different sectors, and the role of other thematic partnerships is set out in this action plan, many of which have influence over funding that needs to also support climate objectives. The Commission was clear that everyone needs to action on climate change, which ultimately means making best use of the £26bn annual economic value of the local economy. All organisations need to understand the importance that all of its spend is undertaken with an understanding of the context of tackling climate change.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has convened work on this Climate Action Plan and has a key role in supporting the collaborative work. With the elected Mayor and Board it brings together local government, with its constituent

partners the local authorities and also includes the Business Board. The Combined Authority has already identified £9.5m of new spend on specific climate projects for the period to March 2025 supported by £1.4m of revenue spend (the projects are included in this action plan). Additional activity will be identified later in the year when the local transport and economic plans are finalised. Affordability

Affordability

Many residents and businesses want to make a difference and are making changes where they can. However, the current economic circumstances, with the sharp rise in energy costs and inflation, will restrict what some can do. Although these factors are outside the control of this action plan, delivering on the actions can have a positive impact. For example, energy efficiency improvements reduce energy costs, and this action plan sets out how energy retrofits for homes can be supported. For businesses the rise in materials costs has to be managed, supporting the actions around reduction in waste and promoting a circular economy. Some of the projects funded in this action plan are helping businesses to build capacity in new green markets, which will reduce costs over time. The Commission's initial report helpfully includes a guide for residents on what practical changes they can make and many of these are about changing how things done and don't involve additional spend. Climate change: second national adaptation programme (2018 to 2023) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Progress on the delivery of this action plan will be monitored to ensure that everyone is supported to respond to the climate challenges.

Managing Climate risk for our communities and adapting to climate change

Mitigation and adaptation go hand in hand. One is cutting carbon emissions to reduce long term impacts of climate change and the other is ensuring our communities are resilient to the climate impacts we are currently experiencing. Adaptation also means taking advantage of new opportunities, such as supporting the green economy. Many actions in the climate action plan can achieve both mitigation and adaptation benefits and these should be actively pursued. Every action needs to think about consequences to avoid creating future issues, with no regret investment. Even with mitigation of future emissions, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough needs to adapt to the climate changes already





Green Recovery Plan outcomes

As a response to the Covid-19 pandemic a green recovery plan was developed. This included how the area can get to Net-Zero carbon emissions, reflecting the Commission's work. The Recovery Plan set out how this can be achieved through:

- Phasing out the burning of fossil fuels to heat homes and businesses and replace with low carbon heating solutions
- Increase production of renewable energy locally to supply consumers as close to source as possible
- Significantly increase energy efficiency of all buildings and improve EPC ratings through retrofitting
- Electrify transport and shift travel from the private car to greater levels of homeworking, active travel and mass transport solution
- Generate clean hydrogen locally to fuel large vehicles, freight and gas networks to reduce fossil fuels
- Invest in digital infrastructure to facilitate more home working, and remote access to public services, to reduce the need to travel
- Carbon sequestration in the landscape such as peatland restoration, tree planting, creating new wetlands and better soil management
- Incentivising farmers and agri-tech businesses to capture and store carbon and improve food production technique

It also linked in the Doubling nature ambition:

Improving quality of existing green space to actively support nature
Increasing (to at least double) the area of land managed for nature benefits
Developing new business models that value natural capital and create reliable income
streams for nature restoration (e.g. carbon and biodiversity credits).
Speed up investments into natural capital to prevent future costs for infrastructure
e.g. underpinning buildings, flood risk management, overheating, crop productivity

Actions in this climate action plan make progress on these outcomes through to 2025. Some topics will need to be considered over a longer period (for example national projects are testing the future role of hydrogen).

What does success look like? How will communities judge its success?

£100m+ Energy Infrastructure and Investment Programme identified to support net zero

Water Resources Plan in place to address short term and longer term water management issues

20 Communities have cut 1000 tonnes of CO2 emissions as a result of the Net Zero Communities Fund

£1m Nature Fund leverages significant further investment

Increase in the amount of rich wildlife areas and green space, towards the Doubling Nature ambition

High take-up of Environmental Land Management Scheme grants for land owners/farmers

500 charge points installed in 18 months

6MW of installed PV capacity on homeowner roofs installed by summer 2023

1000 homes retrofitted by summer 2023 and further investment secured for a further 2000 home retrofits

All actions have taken into account the need to reduce emissions and the need to adapt to the impacts of the changing climate

The following actions have been developed in line with the themes of the Commission's report. The type of action is also identified:



Building block projects - things that need to happen to enable adaptation and mitigation, such as electric vehicle charging points



Finance model – making sure there are ways to invest in climate change actions



Community action – helping communities take action



Direct Emissions reductions – actions that directly themselves reduce the emission of greenhouse gases



Nature based solutions – using our natural environment to take climate action

Theme	What's already happening? Links to key strategies, plans, evidence bases and partnerships already delivering	Strategic Actions	Resources	Lead Groups	What adaptation (A) and mitigation (M) does this lead to or deliver?
Sustainable Finance	Zero Carbon Delivery Vehicle Green Bonds CUSPE 2021 Decarbonisation Fund Cleantech Venture Day http://www.cleantechday.com/ london/ Cleantech dealflow and pitching for Companies http://www.cleantechday.com/ london/index.php/dealflow- companies/ Cambridge Cleantech _ Impact Report Home - Cambridge Cleantech - Cambridge Cleantech Cambridge Cleantech Finance Special Interest group	1. By March 2023 assess, identify, and set up relevant Funding models to attract investment into:	1. £1m capital fund to pump prime investment in Nature and the Environment (CPCA) And low carbon infrastructure fund – Net Zero Funding and Delivery Vehicle 2. Include this as part of the CPCA financing work. Identify funding for projects that generate local carbon credits incl. government grants, competitions, CPCA, LAs 3. Develop guidance for projects on carbon emissions reductions and the development of projects for inclusion in the Decarbonisa-	 Set up Sustainable Finance/Green Investment Group (possibly linking into Local Economic Recovery Working Group) As above All Groups identified in the mapping slide 	(AM) -Functioning markets that make it desirable to invest in and deliver climate beneficial outcomes. (M)-Fostering investment in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough projects rather than 'off-shoring' (AM)-Unlocking private sector investment into the area that currently is restricted by the lack of suitable products/models [target £20m] (AM)-Encouraging innovation in green products and technologies. (AM)-Cleantech – Business Deal Flow to allow 'anchor' institutions (e.g. NHS Trusts, LAs educational institutions and businesses) to attract inward investment.
Engagement	All LA comms leads regularly meet to coordinate activity on climate issues (CPCA convenes). Link with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System Green Plan Greater Cambridge Partnership Citizens Assembly Consult Cambridgeshire Homepage (engagementhq.com) Cambridge City Leaders Climate Collaboration Peterborough City Leaders Climate Change Partnership and commitment	 By June 2022 develop an Engagement Plan for people and businesses to build knowledge, culture, and incentivise action on Climate ensuring links across plans, including NHS, RECAP and local partnerships. By July 2022 set up a fund for small scale community projects to access to build local momentum and awareness. Engaging with COP policy advisors to influence COP27 negotiations with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough issues 	1.CPCA and LAs 2. £1m Net Zero Villages programme for community projects (CPCA) 3. Staff resources to feed into three conferences e.g April 2022	1. Climate Working Group supported by communications leads and relevant specialist groups 2. CPCA and links to partners including County Council Think Communities team, District Council officers 3. All Groups	AM) - Reduce barriers to change through uncertainty/lack of knowledge. Shared best practice.

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Energy	UKPN RII02 Business plan (2023-2028) expanding internal capacity to support local areas on Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) first and exploring the scope for customer participation through increased flexibility Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure Project (PIRI) Low carbon energy programme Cambridgeshire Integrating Renewable Energy and EcoSystems Services in environmental and energy policies, IRENES Project CUSPE 21 Research on Heat Zones and Heat Networks Cambridgeshire Local Authorities Energy Projects Performance Contract – this procurement is 2020-2024 and can support development of outline business cases for energy projects	1. & 2. By March 2024 deliver two Local Area Energy Plans for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which include infrastructure investment programmes spatially mapped to deliver net zero by 2050.	1. A Peterborough LAEP is being developed by the Energy Systems Catapult. 2. A Cambs LAEP will cost approximately £5 -600K and contributions with support from UKPN, Businesses, CPCA, CCC and LPAs.	1. PCC / Energy Systems Catapult 2. Establish New Group to Progress the LAEP. Explore cost options with BEIS/IRENES Project ARU and Energy Systems Catapult	(AM)- Energy infrastructure plans against which investment can be secured. (M)- A building block for decarbonising heating and hot water for homes, and transport. Keeping pace and supporting rapid takeup. (M)-Detailed understanding of future energy demand and the energy infrastructure to support this including renewables, storage, network distribution, energy efficiency and the land and growth impacts. (A)- Resilient infrastructure adapted to future climate

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Buildings	Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership established. BEIS is investing funding into retrofit of buildings, principally domestic buildings and public sector buildings. Our area is within that administered by the Greater South East Energy Hub (GSEEH). Public Sector Decarbonisation funding to develop a heat decarbonisation plan for maintained schools in Peterborough by end March.	 Immediate - target government decarbonisation scheme, private funding, and other competitions to support retrofits (focusing on low income/vulnerable homes and public buildings). By July 2022 set up relevant Delivery Vehicles and Procurement Frameworks for home retrofits accessible by partners and homeowners to deliver self-financed and grant funded retrofits. By October 2022 provide accredited suppliers that make accessing suppliers easier for those able to pay such as 'collective solar' or bulk purchase ASHPs. By March 2024 undertake care home retrofit programme Undertake in 2022 a regional domestic buildings retrofit study to identify sector skills needs/ delivery/manufacturing. 	 Deploy £6.5m Sustainable Warmth funding (by March 2023) in the Cambridgeshire area. Peterborough City Council has been awarded Sustainable Warmth funding as part of the Warmer Homes consortium. Retrofit partnership £2m project to support care homes retrofit (CPCA) Skills Strategy / GSEEH 	1. Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership 2. Warmer Homes Consortium 3. Cambridgeshire Action on Energy 4. CPCA, CCC/PCC 5. GSEEH plus Business Board/ green Skills; plus soft market testing with LA procurement managers and NHS estate managers	(AM) Retrofits will address risks of rising fossil fuel costs; cooling and shading for hotter summers as well as energy efficiency and carbon reductions. (M) Procurement frameworks will provide homeowners access to suppliers to undertake retrofit works. (AM) To ensure Cambridgeshire and Peterborough properties are able to access the Sustainable Warmth grants.

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Transport	£13m per annum is spent supporting bus services in the area (CPCA). Bus Reform Taskgroup. Alternative Fuels study. Electric bus, E -Scooter and E - bike trials. Rail connectivity improvements. Capability funding from the DfT Peterborough City Council have introduced HVO (biodiesel) across all of its Highways fleet. Cambridge Chargepoint Project See also GoAscendal project in Business and Skills section.	 In 2022 to revise the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan to support active travel and passenger transport, reducing the number of miles driven and agree key delivery plans including 2. an Alternative Fuel Strategy and delivery plan. By Dec 2022 implement project to replace nearly 10% of bus fleet with electric buses (ZEBRA scheme). By xx implement a process to 'design down carbon' across all major highway construction schemes supported by the CPCA. 	1. Approve LTCP in 2022, and make appropriate transport investments (the CPCA will consider transport schemes for funding from multiple sources, including CPCA's Capital Single Pot). 2. UKPN RII02 business plan supporting additional on street public chargers and strategic upgrades at motorway and trunk road service stations. 3. Government grant/CPCA/GCP contributions/Private operator funding	1. Local Transport Plan Working Group; Heads of Environmental Health – pollution, air quality? 2. Alternative Fuel Strategy Task Group 3. ZEBRA Task Group	(AM) Moving towards a low carbon transport system that supports the connectivity and accessibility needs of residents and businesses across the varied geography of the area. (M) To implement the development of schemes that will reduce the number of miles driven and increase the mode share of alternatives. Increases in the proportion of zero emission vehicles.

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Business & Commercial	Local Economic and Skills strategies being refreshed. New University of Peterborough to support net zero innovation, including research centre 3D printing research, sustainable plastics, and new ways to make batteries. Agri-tech report published. The Business Board has established the Growth Company to provide a range of business support, including coaching, online support, investment and skills. CUSPE 21 Carbon Advisory Service for SMEs Environmental performance is part of the criteria for investment prioritisation. Green Business Grants of up to £10k to help reduce carbon emissions and save money (Cambridge City Council – runs to March 2022). £1m Local Growth Fund investment in GoAscendal Labs, a new mobility technology accelerator. Co-located with a local bus operator, start-ups will develop innovative new technologies targeted at improving mobility, including public transport, cycling and walking in the region NHS ambition "Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service". Cambridge Cleantech https://cambridgecleantech.org.uk/	1.In 2022 the Climate recommendations to inform the revision of the Local Economic and Skills Strategies; 2.By March 2023 scope a Carbon Advisory Service to support SMEs linked to the Decarbonisation Fund 3.By March 2023 though the Economic Strategy identify the economic and planning levers that can incentivise and attract businesses to the area to deliver re-manufacturing facilities for a local circular economy and low carbon ambitions. 4.In 2022 new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Integrated Care System organisation to produce and implement Green Plan, building on existing strategies and action. 5. By March 2023 mapping the cleantech sector companies by the government definition to understand baseline, create a database, to identify strengths in the subsectors; to target investment and measure progress against low carbon growth/jobs to provide opportunities	1. A combined Local Economic and Skills Strategy approved in 2022 2. Link to Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund 3a. Completion of £16.7m Manufacturing and Materials Research and Development Centre building as part of the Peterborough University campus (ARU) 3b. New mobility technology accelerator, GoAscendal Labs: A further two programme cycles taking place over the next two years.	1. Business Board, CPCA 2. Set up Sustainable Finance/Green Investment Working Group and use Local Economic Recovery Working Group and Business Board? 3. Business Board with delivery partners. Plus link into Cambridge Cleantech networks 4. C&P ICS, with support from NHS East Greener Team 5. Cambridge Cleantech	AM) -The local business sectors enhance their prosperity in a climate positive way, seize opportunities presented by the low carbon economy, and are adapting to the changing climate and minimising risks. (AM)-Enhanced local business capacity to deliver retrofit and to innovate new low carbon opportunities. (AM) leveraging the strengths of innovation networks in C&P to test and implement green products and technologies and to promote investment in green innovations

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Nature	Doubling Nature ambition. OxCam Arc Environment Principles (20% BNG ambition). £200K Round 1 NEIRF project on BNG (NE/CCC) Developing ecosystem service models to flood risk management and green growth	 By Dec 2023 deliver a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; By March 2023 set up fund for nature-based solutions through a 'Fund for Nature and the Environment' By March 2024 establish an effective Biodiversity Net Gain system for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that maximises outcomes By March 2023 deliver successful legacy for the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) that puts in place arrangements to secure the health and wellbeing, climate change mitigation and nature restoration benefits provided by parks and open spaces. By March 2023 provide advice on Biodiversity strategies taking account of climate change for all organisations with substantial landownership 	See Finance section above for details on the Nature fund. £1.3m Huntingdonshire Biodiversity Project (CPCA) £125k Doubling Nature Metrics (CPCA) £280k Logans Meadow LNR extension (CPCA) 3. LAs staff / Natural Cambridgeshire 4. £217k made up of contributions from each District Council, the County Council and PCC for 1 year pilot programme 5. Organisations funding	1. CCC, Districts, Natural Cambridgeshire, CPCA 2. CPCA and delivery partners: HDC, Cambs City. 3. Local authorities via planning system, assisted by Natural Cambridgeshire 4. Existing FPA Legacy governance structures including elected members from CPCA, CCC, PCC and all the Districts and Executive Board including officers from all local authorities and the LNP. 5. Natural Cambridgeshire as advisor	(AM)-Develop and invest in nature-based solutions that maximise the reduction in emissions, adaptation risks and deliver co-benefits such as biodiversity / access.

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Soils & Peat	Established the Fenlands SOIL partnership.	 By March 2023 complete the mapping of peatland assets Immediate -identify operating costs/impacts to shift farming practice to sustainable farming practice Immediate - demonstrate practical projects working with landowners on restoration 	1. CPCA and private sector support for Fenland SOIL 2. £100K Peat Discovery funding (NE). 3. The Fens East Peat Partnership has been awarded £815k to explore the feasibility of restoring peatlands in the Fens. (Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust are leading the project on behalf of The National Trust, NE, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire). 3b. CPCA revenue funding for restoration capacity building.	. Fenland SOIL 2. NFU, Lowland Peat Taskforce. Delivery partners. 3. The Fens East Peat Partnership. 3b. CPCA	(AM)-A joined-up strategy by landowners, farmers and public sector to manage the peat resources to balance climate, nature and food production

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Water	Water Resources East bringing together stakeholders on water supply planning. Environment Agency changes to risk planning for drought events. Planning for two new reservoirs entered into the RAPID programme to accelerate decision -making. Future Fens Integrated Adaptation project. Environment Agency changes to abstraction [policy] Anglian Water Business Plan 2020 -25	1. Immediate - support existing partnerships and plans to deliver water efficiency, supply, storage and manage flood risk including WRE Regional Plan by Dec 2023, Future Fens Integrated Adaptation Plan, and Future Fens Project. Ensure strategies by agencies and stakeholders are aligned and complementary 2. Ongoing- update/include policies in local plans that actively tackle water issues; 3. Immediate -Collaborate on land management changes and understanding of what we plan for in terms of flood defences for the future. 4. By March 2024 develop innovative and nature based solutions for flood/water management	 WRE core funding. Partners funding of FF:IA. Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. LA core funding Regional Flood and Coastal Committee / Lead Flood Authorities / Internal Drainage Boards / Environment Agency CCC/WRE chalk streams work, and £420k Chalk Stream project (CPCA) 	1.Future Fens Project, Water Resources East, EA, FF:IA Fens Water Partnership 1, 2 & 4. Regional Flood and Coastal Committee / Lead Flood Authorities / Internal Drainage Boards / Environment Agency 2. LPAs, LLFA and Council sustainable drainage officers	(AM) Easing of the water- stress pressures in C&P, with greater balance between supply and demand to support the growth and development of the area and to support homes and businesses in meeting the challenges of flooding.
Waste	Pilot projects testing new vehicles and low carbon fuels. Review of RECAP Waste Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which will update targets and actions for increased municipal waste and resources recycling and reduction.	1. Immediate - Informing and enabling our communities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste through the facilitated development of circular waste economies with the aim of reducing the emissions from the collection, treatment and disposal of waste. 2. Ongoing - Within the priorities of individual authorities, funding and contracts, move toward low carbon (electric, biofuels etc) waste vehicles to cut transport emissions from waste. This includes investigating RECAP wide tender opportunities for low carbon diesel alternative fuels building on the pilot projects at Waterbeach and Peterborough Highways.	 Existing resources. £2.3m Waterbeach Depot Solar PV project to enable rollout of low emission vehicles (CPCA) Peterborough City Council Highways fleet piloting use of HVO (biodiesel). 	1. Recap Partnership 2a. CPCA, Cambs City and South Cams District (Shared Waste Service) 2b. PCC	(M)- Supporting the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle to minimise the waste stream (and the embodied carbon from production). (A) – Build the local circular economy (M) -Reducing the emissions from waste collection and waste management
Evaluation and Monitoring	AR6 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability — IPCC	 Immediate - fund the CPICC to monitor progress against their recommendations and carbon footprint By March 2025 CPICC Undertake deep dives into different sectors e.g. supply chain maturity for retrofits or economic benefit to low carbon living By March 2023 identify the Adaptation Trajectory and develop an adaption response for the area. Ongoing - Monitor, evaluate, and review this Action Plan, with an annual update by each March. 	 8 2. CPCA budget provision CWG CPCA 	 8 2. CPICC supported via the CPCA Climate Working Group CWG, Environment Agency. Climate Working Group 	(A) – Resilient infrastructure and homes designed to withstand climate change impacts