

Spelthorne Borough Council – Climate Change Strategy

The climate crisis is the biggest challenge humanity has faced in generations, we need to mitigate any further damage to the planet and adapt to the changes in our climate that are already with us, as the recent heatwaves have shown.

Greenhouse Gases (GHG) cause the air temperature to increase by trapping certain wavelengths of radiation in the atmosphere contributing to global heating. Carbon dioxide (CO²) is the dominant GHG and since the period of the industrial revolution, humans have increased atmospheric CO² on an exponential scale, most of which is attributable to fossil fuels. Climate change caused by GHGs is currently and will continue to cause further biological, societal, and economical disasters, therefore the reduction of these emissions globally is crucial to sustaining life on this planet.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report - *Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*¹ recognises the scale of the challenge to address the climate crisis means rapid and far-reaching changes that are needed in all aspects of society, however, it demonstrates that taking action will lead to a more sustainable and equitable society. The action required to make these changes may be difficult, however, we should focus not on what we can no longer do but on what will be gained by residents and the borough by taking action.

Risks of the climate crisis to Spelthorne

The dangers of climate change are well known; however, it is worth reiterating the risks to Spelthorne:-

- Drought – July 2022 was the driest on record in the South-East²
- Heat – temperatures recently hit 40.2 at Heathrow on the hottest day on record³
- Wildfires – major incident declared by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service as wildfires took hold in July 2022
- Flooding – due to the rising level of the Thames due to sea level rises⁴ as well as less frequent but heavier downpours
- Water security – it has been estimated that the South-East will require an extra 110 million litres of water per day over the next 35 years⁵ which could affect Spelthorne’s reservoirs
- Food security – drought will have a detrimental knock-on effect on our food supply

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

² <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2022/driest-july-in-england-since-1935>

³ https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/weather/learn-about/uk-past-events/interesting/2022/2022_03_july_heatwave.pdf

⁴ <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/nature-environment/environmental-studies/sea-level-rise-london-uk>

⁵ <https://wrse.uk.engagehq.com/our-regional-plan>

Benefits of taking action

Not only do we the Council have a duty to take action to protect Spelthorne and the wider ecosystem for future generations to ensure Spelthorne is a liveable thriving borough, but there are many benefits to acting including decreasing fuel poverty, reducing energy bills, improving air quality and green spaces in the borough for residents and creating green jobs. Additionally, by adapting and planning for the risks of climate change we can reduce Spelthorne's exposure to the costs of these risks, for example, flood damage to buildings, infrastructure and services.

According to the Climate Change Committee's recent report "Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget", local authorities are directly responsible for between 2- 5% of a local area's emissions but influence over 33% of a local area's emissions and have many levers that can be used to deliver and influence wider local action to reduce emissions and prepare local areas for a changing climate.⁶ Therefore, Spelthorne Borough Council has an important role in reducing the emissions of the whole of Spelthorne.

Spelthorne Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency on the 14th of October 2020, publicly prioritising its commitment to tackling the climate crisis. This strategy carries on from this declaration and from the work that has already been accomplished, examples of which are listed below:-

- Installation of solar PV arrays across Council owned buildings including, the Main Operations Depot, Knowle Green West Wing Development, Laleham Nursery, Staines & Fordbridge Community Centres
- Ultra Low Energy Passivhaus Leisure Centre in Staines is being built
- Council's fleet now has 2 EV (electric vehicle) pool cars, 2 EV vans and 2 EV mopeds
- EV charging points installed at main operations buildings including Knowle Green, White House Depot and Laleham Nursery.
- 8 EV charge points installed at 2 Multi-storey car parks in Staines-upon-Thames
- LED lighting upgrades carried out throughout Council offices

⁶ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

Spelthorne Borough Council's baseline emissions

It is important to note that emissions are calculated as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e), which is a term used to combine the seven most threatening gases that have the highest global warming potential. This includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride.

Spelthorne Borough Council's baseline emissions for 2019/2020 for Scope 1 and 2 emissions were 1,194 tCO₂e, the breakdown of these emissions can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

Emissions Source	Scope	Tonnes CO₂e	% Split
Council Vehicles	1	228	52.5%
Natural Gas	1	627	19%
Oil	1	5	0.5%
Electricity	2	334	28%
Total		1194	100%

Table 1 Carbon emissions by source for Spelthorne Borough Council's operations in 2019/20

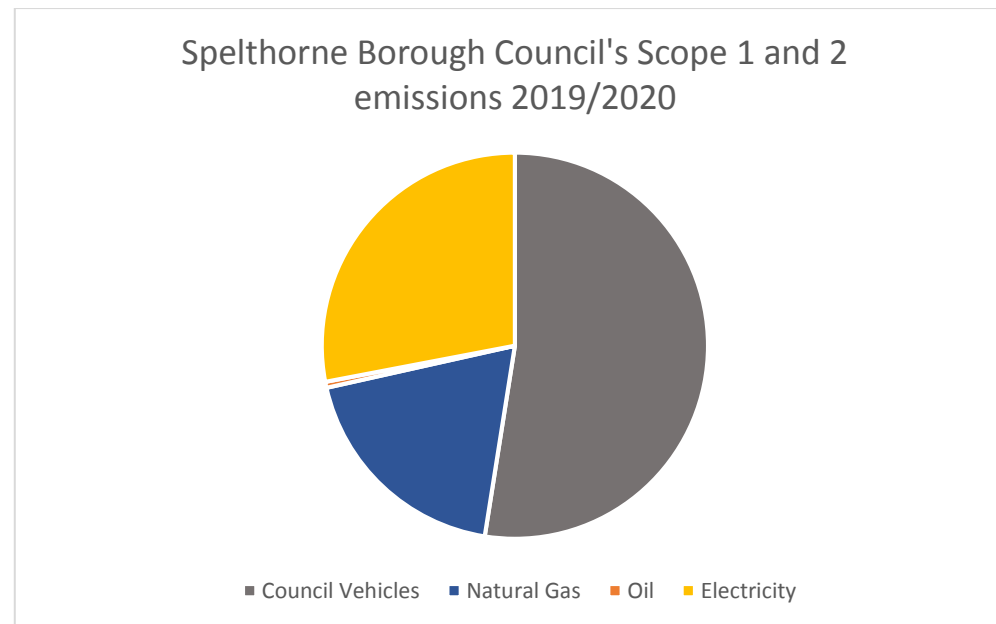


Table 2 Overview of Spelthorne Borough Council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions 2019/2020

Net Zero target

A Net Zero target refers to reaching net zero carbon emissions by a nominated year but differs from zero carbon, which requires no carbon to be emitted at all. Net Zero refers to balancing the amount of emitted greenhouse gases with the equivalent emissions that are either offset or sequestered through rewilding and tree planting or carbon capture and storage. The Council will have a greater focus on reducing carbon emissions as much as possible and only using offsetting and sequestering techniques for those hard to reduce emissions.

Spelthorne Borough Council plans to be Net Zero for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by **2030**. This is in line with Surrey County Council's Greener Futures Delivery Plan.

It is estimated that there could be up to 283 tCO₂e from hard to reduce sources that will be unavoidable by 2030 that will need to be offset, the Council will look to offset through a large renewable scheme, protection and improvement of the borough's carbon sinks and tree planting schemes.

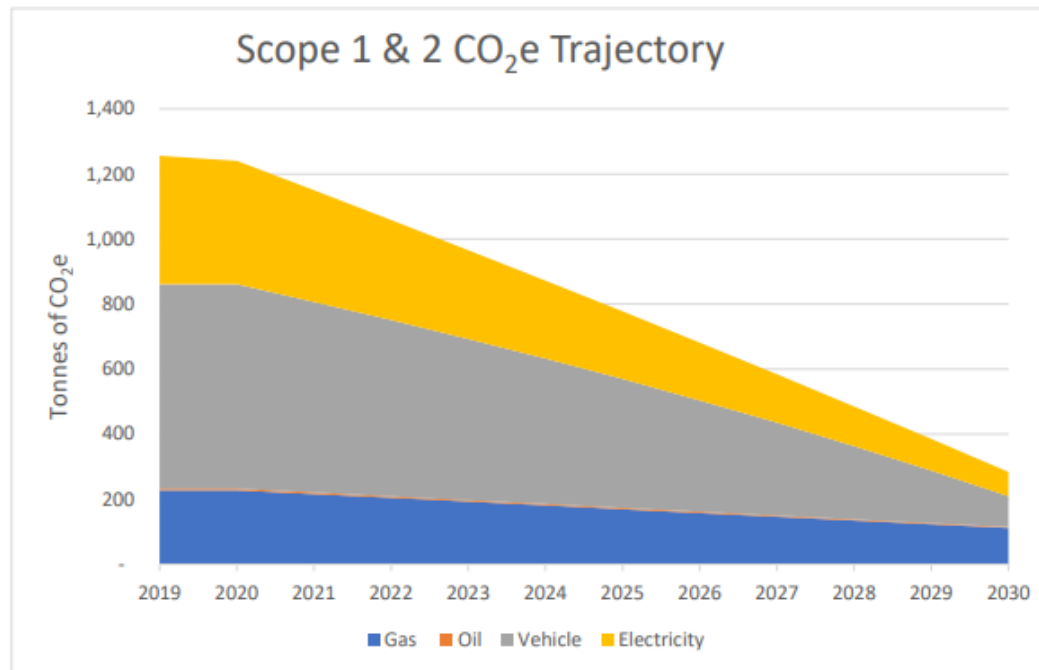


Table 3 Spelthorne Borough Council Emissions Trajectory 2019 - 2030

It is important to establish Science Based Targets, meaning that targets align with Earth’s limits and societal sustainability goals as well as being measurable, actionable, and time-bound objectives. It is important to note that as the Council's emissions reporting becomes more accurate, emissions may rise to reflect true emissions.

The Council intends to reduce our emissions to 40% of our baseline year by 2025 to 717 tCO₂e, saving 477 tCO₂e equivalent to removing 280 cars from the road. In 2025 we will review our emissions and targets and aim to reduce emissions further to be Net Zero by 2030.

We will also monitor and report our progress against our targets while collaborating with Surrey County Council on reporting and actions. While the Net Zero target is for our Scope 1 & 2 emissions, we will be working to monitor and reduce our Scope 3 emissions as well.

How Spelthorne Borough Council will reduce emissions

How the Council is going to reduce emissions is set out below by actions that need to be undertaken. While the Council wants to reduce our emissions, we also realise the important need to plan for the changing climate, therefore adaptation is also covered in this plan, recent heatwaves have shown some of those changes are already here.

While we are aiming to get to Net Zero by **2030** for Scope 1 & 2 we realise the large impact of our Scope 3 emissions, which by their nature are much hard to track and reduce. Therefore, we will also be taking several actions to reduce our Scope 3 emission and create a more robust reporting system.

The Action Plan has been divided into nine sections that need to be tackled: -

- Buildings and Operations
- Transport
- Finance
- Sustainable Development
- Economy
- Waste
- Communities
- Biodiversity
- Adaptation

It is an ambitious plan, that will require the buy in of all staff, which will be reviewed every 6 months, but the risk of the climate crisis is such that it requires bold action.

Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Reduce the Council's emissions from buildings and operations (transport considered in separate section)	1.	Delivering the Climate Change Strategy and training staff to 'think green'	Deliver Carbon Literacy to staff to increase awareness of climate change/emergency. Staff will become certificated and create 2 pledges to reduce carbon emissions in the workplace	25% of staff trained by end of 2023	Climate Change Team (CCT)/Officer	£10 per staff member to come from training budget	Greener Futures Plan action point (52), Corporate Priority Environment Plan	First training session booked for 28 th Sept for 24 members of staff
	2.	Ensure a robust reporting and monitoring progress for all SBC emissions	To be able to better monitor and understand SBC emissions including Scope 3 and reduce these	Q4 2023	CCO/SO/ICT			Working with Project Manager of Carbon Economics and Data at SCC on reporting process
	3.	Carry out energy audits on main Council operations buildings and assets to identify and reduce energy use	Utilise the energy audits carried out on Council buildings to inform future projects to increase energy efficiency measures across Council buildings including removing oil heating from nursery site	By 2025	CCT	PSLCSF, however, there is the potential to mitigate or slow down the rate of increase in the Council's energy spend	Corporate Priority Recovery Plan,	Audits carried out by APSE – projects to be planned to carry out suggested work

	4.	Incorporate energy efficiency measures and renewables into conversions, refurbishments, and maintenance of Council buildings and housing developments	Identify projects that are in line for maintenance and explore opportunities to include carbon intervention measures and adaptation retrofits simultaneously eg cooling, rainwater harvesting, and water efficiency with consideration of associated air quality impacts	Ongoing	Assets/Facilities/CCT		Corporate Recovery and Environment plan	
	5.	Carry out an energy and carbon audit of all Corporate IT functions	Understand the hidden emissions of ICT and develop a plan to reduce these	2023	ICT/CCT	Green Initiatives Fund (GIF) for possible consultant work if required		
	6.	Deliver lighting upgrades and improvements to heating, ventilation and air conditioning, all remaining lighting in Council buildings to be replaced with LEDs where appropriate	Reduce energy use in Council buildings, could also reduce the Council's energy expenditure	Ongoing	SO/Facilities			Loft insulation recently upgraded in KG

	7.	Meter water usage across Council buildings and install water saving devices and consider behaviour change methods	Reduction of water usage across SBC operations will the possibility of reducing water bills also	2025	Facilities		Water Efficiency Policy	
	8.	Complete remaining EPC surveys for all Council sites in the commercial portfolio and assess against the requirements of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards	Allow assessment of sites and determine if any insulation work is required to reduce energy use	2026	Assets/Facilities		Corporate Priority Environment Plan and Recovery Plan	
	9.	Produce as much energy locally through renewable resources	All opportunities for renewables in Spelthorne explored and developed where feasible including solar and geothermal	2028	Initially CCT	Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund	Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (41)	Solar PV now on all 3 main operational buildings
	10.	Consider approaches to decarbonising buildings owned by Spelthorne but leased to others	Reduce Scope 3 emissions	2026	Assets/CCT	Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund		
	11.	Although Spelthorne does not own any council housing, the Council will work with Knowle Green Estate and suppliers to promote retrofit, insulation, energy	Work with Knowle Green Estates and social housing providers to reduce emissions from social housing through energy efficiency	2027	Housing/CCO/ Knowle Green Estates	Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund		

		efficiency and adaptation measures	measures and reduce residents' bills, whilst recognising the need for appropriate mechanical ventilation to maintain indoor air quality in some circumstances					
	12.	Council decision-making report template to contain Sustainability/Climate Change Impact section to ensure that every new proposal is aligned with our Climate Emergency commitment	All reports/projects across the Council consider the climate change implications of a future report/project and work to reduce impact, this may require training to understand the full impacts	2022			Corporate Priority Environment Plan	Completed
	13.	Create new climate change officer role		2021	Group Head Transformation	First-year salary from Green Initiatives Fund	Corporate Priority Environment Plan	Completed
	14.	Deliver climate change communications to residents	Work with Hubbub to create communications regarding climate change, to raise	By end of 2022	CCO	GIF	Corporate Priority Environment Plan	Design being finalised with Hubbub

			awareness and help educate residents about the issues					
15.	Create a dedicated digital space to share knowledge, information and tools on the climate and ecological emergency	Demonstrate that SBC is tackling climate change is a key issue for SBC and allow easy access to resources for staff and residents	By Q3 of 2023	CCO/SO/Comms team/ICT				
16.	Develop a green event checklist for event companies and suppliers to report their carbon footprint for Spelthorne events	Allow SBC to influence suppliers to reduce emissions and to choose suppliers who are actively tackling their emissions. It will also feed into SBC Scope 3 emissions reporting	2023	Procurement/CCO				
17.	Raise awareness and work to ensure all staff reduce unnecessary emissions	Reduce the energy usage and emissions from unnecessary sources such as leaving equipment on standby	Ongoing	All staff				
18.	Develop a policy of serving only plant-based catering with a priority on local, seasonal sourcing at events on corporate sites.	Reduce emissions from meat and dairy food, which are significant contributors of GHG	2024	CCT/Committees/Secretariat		National Food Strategy		

			emissions and deforestation, and raise awareness within the Council and borough of plant based diets					
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Reduce emissions from transport within Spelthorne	19.	Transition the Council fleet to electric. The Council is committed to converting 50% of the Council fleet to electric or hydrogen by 2028 as stated in SBC Climate Emergency	Dramatically reduce the Council's emissions as transport makes up to 53% of total Council emissions	2029	Neighbours Services/CCT	Top up from GIF	Corporate Priority Environment Plan and Recovery Plan, Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (39)	2 EV pool cars, 2 EV vans, 2 EV mopeds are already in fleet
	20.	Track Council vehicle mileage to better understand the Council's carbon and air pollutant emissions	Understand emissions and air pollution hot spots and work to reduce emissions	Early 2024	Principal Pollution Control Manager/ Neighbourhood Services/CCT	Modelling may require budget – GIF	Corporate Priority Environment Plan, Air Quality Management Area	
	21.	Promote sustainable transport with staff including, staff homeworking to reduce travel and	Reducing emissions from unnecessary travel and highlighting to staff	End of 2022	CCT/Projects		Corporate Priority Environment Plan,	Hybrid working in place as well salary sacrifice schemes for EVs and bicycles

		exploring schemes offering Council employees and other alternatives to flying such as Climate Perks	more sustainable choices				Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (50,51)	
	22.	Improve EV infrastructure, providing more EV charging points and stations, dedicated parking bays and information to improve access throughout Borough to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles	Develop an EV charging strategy to increase the amount of chargers in the borough to promote and aid the transition to EVs	Strategy - Q2 2023	CCT	ORCS and LEVI funding for chargepoint, EST can provide free help with strategy	Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (39), Health and Wellbeing Strategy	On-street EV trial with SCC
	23.	Deliver EV taxi programme to encourage taxi companies and drivers to invest in electric fleets	Decrease emissions from short journeys especially around schools where taxis are frequent	2024	Principal Pollution Control Officer/Licensing/SO	Pilot scheme funding from DEFRA via a joint project with the Surrey Air Alliance	Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (20)	
	24.	Support residents and businesses to adopt clean vehicles and car-sharing	Promoting the use of active transport over shorter distances to reduce car usage in shorter journeys and support via relevant organisations an increase in public transport	2025	CCT		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	

	25.	Implement the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	Increasing opportunities for exercise through walking and cycling and improving air quality by reducing car dependency, promoting walking and cycling as alternatives to car use and improving walking and cycling infrastructure within the Borough including developing opportunities for bike maintenance and servicing	2024	GHCT	Surrey Infrastructure Fund/GIF	Corporate Priority Environment Plan, Corporate Priority Recovery Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy	
	26.	Promoting sustainable travel, including actively supporting improvements to public transport access to Heathrow and sustainable travel to school	Providing active travel options for residents to access Heathrow, a large employer, reducing private car emissions to airport	Ongoing	CCT		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	Surrey CC's Safer Travel Team are active in this area with a dedicated officer who works on this via the Surrey Air Alliance
	27.	Continue to lobby at a national and regional level for the changes that are needed and on the big strategic infrastructure	Decrease the large national and regional impact of air travel emissions and	Ongoing	MAT/SCC		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	SBC is active on HSPG Environment Group

		decisions such as Heathrow Airport's third runway and changes to the regulation and operation of UK airspace	associated pollution in the borough					
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Reduce the impact of the Council's finance and investments on the planet by having responsible investments	28.	Influence and work with Surrey County Council to have a portfolio of responsible pension investments	Work with and influence Surrey County Council to divestment from fossil fuels and climate destructive industries and invest in environmentally friendly income streams	2027	CCT/Finance/Surrey CC		Corporate Priority Environment Plan, Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (49), Health and Wellbeing Strategy	
	29.	Develop an ESG policy for Council investments	Divert investment from fossil fuels and climate destructive industries towards sustainable investments	Policy in place by end of 2022 applied by 2027	Finance/CCT			
	30.	Investigate renewable energy opportunities and investments including the potential for solar and wind	Have a portfolio of opportunities for renewable energy development ready to go	Ongoing	CCT	GIF for feasible studies, PSDS	Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (41)	

	31.	Sustainable procurement of goods and services - understand the Council's supply chains, contractors and service providers/stakeholders and specify (when tendering) sustainable practices and products within them including being responsive to climate risks in procurement	Organisational development and training for key lead officers in commissioning and procurement, including training on low carbon procurement and sustainable policy	2025	CCT/Procurement		Corporate Priority Recovery Plan Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (48)	
	32.	Work and partner with other local authorities, regional bodies and public sector institutions to attract investment and grant funding, using this to share knowledge and maximise opportunities	Maximise any funding opportunities/projects to reduce emissions in Spelthorne and adapt to climate change	Ongoing	CCT			Continue meeting with SCC CC officers to discuss different funding options
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Creating sustainable development in Spelthorne	33.	Adopt the highest possible environmental standards within development planning, including standards for adaptation to climate change and develop integrated guidance on planning	Encourage more sustainable developments in Spelthorne and reduce the need for intervention in future	2024	Building Control/Planning/CCO		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (38)	Building Control are aware of any updates to building standards regulations and ensure standards are rigorously applied

	34.	Develop the first 'wet and dry' Passivhaus accredited leisure facility in the UK	Deliver a state-of-the-art facility that will use 70% less energy than the current leisure centre	Q2 2024	Assets/Leisure			Construction has started on site
	35.	Develop a Green Infrastructure strategy to support the Local Plan	Directly deliver and encourage the implementation of green infrastructure for climate risks of flooding, heat and water stress. Including green roofs and walls, Sustainable Drainage schemes (SuDS) and rainwater harvesting. Green roofs and walls could provide carbon sink opportunities and reduce ambient particulate concentrations	2024	Senior Strategic Planning Officer/CCT		Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Corporate Priority Environment Plan	Some consultant work being carried out by APSE
	36.	Ensure there is a net increase in biodiversity on all developments	Have a list of areas within Spelthorne where large-scale and/or off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (expected to come	Q1 2023	Biodiversity officer/Planning	BNG funding	Environmental Bill	

			into force in winter 2023) can take place					
	37.	Promoting residential development that is sustainably located with access to existing services and transport hubs	Creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods, where daily services can be accessed within a 20-minute walk	2028	Planning		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (17), Local Plan - SP1, SP2 and SP3 and EC3	
	38.	Implement cool roofs across the Council's housing and corporate estate where appropriate, considering options for white and green roofs	Cool roofs will reduce the building temperature during increasingly hotter weather and uses less energy for cooling	2025	CCT/Assets			
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Create a sustainable economy within Spelthorne	39.	Create a green business forum for Spelthorne businesses providing support through workshops, advice and grant funding to develop sustainable future-proofed businesses	Reduce emissions from businesses in Spelthorne and provide support for businesses to become more sustainable and reduce their risk of	2023	CCT/Economic Development	Levelling up fund	Corporate Priority Recovery Plan	

			exposure from climate risks					
	40.	Encourage major businesses in Spelthorne to be leaders in reducing emissions and tackling climate change, and to showcase good practice	Demonstrate Council's commitment to tackling climate change while working with major businesses to reduce emissions in the borough	2024	CCT/ED		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (32)	
	41.	Continue to promote LoCASE, which offers grants to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for energy efficiency measures	Allow SMEs funding to access energy efficiency measures which may have otherwise not have been possible to reduce emissions	Ongoing	CCT/ED	LoCASE	Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (10)	
	42.	Conduct research with local businesses to better understand motivations and barriers to reducing emissions	Provide opportunities for local companies to pilot and adopt low-carbon solutions	2024	CCT/ED		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Reduce the waste produced in the Spelthorne and emissions from	43.	Carry out campaigns, projects, and prototypes to increase recycling rates for target materials, resident groups, and locations	An increase in the rate of Spelthorne recycling rate figures to be provided once the National Waste	Ongoing	Neighbourhood services/CCT		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (64), Joint	Awaiting the outcome of the National Waste Strategy from

waste – especially food waste			Strategy has been published				Municipal Waste Management Strategy	central Government
	44.	Improve recycling in flats and multi occupancies, especially around food waste and general contamination	An increase in the number of households within the district actively recycling everything they can and improving access to food waste collections for more residential customers	2025	Neighbourhood services		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	
	45.	Reduce food waste from Council operations such as events and community centre	Reduction of food waste from Council operations reducing methane emissions	2023	Independent Living/CCT		Corporate Priority Communities Plan	
	46.	Support schemes to reduce food waste within the community and local businesses and redistribute surplus food	Surplus food redistributed via schemes such as community fridges, reducing methane emissions and securing food reliance	2024	CCT/Neighbourhood Services/Community Wellbeing	GIF	Corporate Priority Communities Plan	
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress

Help develop sustainable communities in Spelthorne – where social, environmental, and financial resources meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations	47.	Continue to promote and provide support for residents to access energy efficiency/fuel poverty grant schemes	Reduce fuel poverty in Spelthorne, making homes more energy efficient and decrease carbon emissions from heating	Ongoing	CCT	LAD3/ Sustainable Warmth/ ECO4 Flex	Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (5)	Ongoing work with Action Surrey and Happy Energy
	48.	Enforce minimum energy efficiency standards for the private rented sector	Improving the energy efficiency of housing in Spelthorne reducing the need for excess energy	2023	Environmental Health		Corporate Priority Affordable Housing Plan	
	49.	Continue to expand the walking and cycling networks across the district and promote active travel and promote 20-minute neighbours	Increasing opportunities for exercise through walking and cycling and improving air quality by reducing car dependency, promoting walking and cycling as alternatives to car use and improving walking and cycling infrastructure within the Borough	2025	GHCT/CCT		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (17)	
	50.	Engage with the charity and voluntary sector to align efforts on tackling the	Continue to work with organisations such as Talking Tree	Ongoing	CCT/Pollution Control		Greener Futures Delivery Plan	

		climate emergency and improving air quality	to tackle the climate emergency and Global Action Plan to promote Clean Air Day				action point (23)	
	51.	Work with social housing providers to accelerate low carbon measures for social housing	Encourage social housing providers to undertake energy efficiency measures – reducing emissions	Ongoing	CCT/Housing	Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	Corporate Priority Affordable Housing Plan	
	52.	Promote access to grant funding for renewable energy installations for residents including Solar Together	Create opportunities for residents to install renewable energy and reduce the demand for fossil fuels	Ongoing	CCT	Solar Together	Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (5)	Continue to promote Solar Together
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Protecting biodiversity in Spelthorne. Biodiversity loss and climate change must be tackled together, protecting and restoring healthy ecosystems which can help mitigate	53.	Protect existing habitat and increase targeted habitat to support biodiversity recovery in open spaces	Ensure at least 10% of SBC’s open space portfolio is long grass or similarly “wild” habitat	2023	Biodiversity officer/ Neighbourhood Services		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	
	54.	Develop a range of projects that contribute to tackling the ecological emergency, nature-based solutions, and habitat restoration, restoring and protecting nature, managing our land to	Create sustainable management practices in open spaces for example increase wildflower planting and composting and	2024	CCO/Biodiversity officer/Parks team			

and adapt to climate change		provide greater biodiversity to encourage wildlife and insect populations	reduce the use of fertilisers and chemicals which have a large global warming potential					
	55.	Promote the inclusion of trees in the built environment to mitigate the localised urban heat island effect by providing shade and cooling ecosystem services	New developments to incorporate roadside and garden tree planting with species selected for their environmental and biodiversity benefits	2026	Planning/CCT/ Biodiversity officer			
	56.	Compile a list and assess the current carbon sinks within the borough, and develop a plan to protect, support and improve these sinks	Improving the carbon sequestering ability of the borough	2023	CCT/Biodiversity officer	GIF		
	57.	Incorporate an appreciation of climate change risks and opportunities within open space management planning	Review planting schemes to reduce the use of short-term plants and trees chosen for appearances and promote the use of plants and trees with greater climate adaptation resilience and biodiversity benefits, particularly	2024	CCO/Biodiversity officer/Parks team		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	

			for bees, moths, butterflies and other pollinators					
58.	Promote and develop greening resources for residents to encourage greater biodiversity and 'green the grey' in private spaces	Provide quick-win incentives for residents to plant biodiversity-friendly species, such as distributing seeds and bulbs	2023	Biodiversity officer				
59.	Work with partners such as Colne Valley Trust to deliver biodiversity and climate change projects	Develop opportunities to create carbon sink initiatives within the Borough, including landscaping, retaining and expanding existing woodland, and more tree planting	Ongoing	CCO/Biodiversity officer	GIF	Priority Environment Plan	SBC recently re-joined Colne Valley Partnership	
60.	Work with local community organisations to develop and promote opportunities for residents to learn about the borough's biodiversity more widely	Encourage the creation of "Friends of..." groups engagement and awareness of biodiversity in the borough	Ongoing	Biodiversity officer		Priority Environment Plan		

	61.	Conserving urban open spaces and green infrastructure which are a contributor to managing surface water run-off, holding floodwaters, and reducing soil erosion	Promote grassland habitat diversity and support the connectivity of pollinator habitats while protecting soil, a large carbon sink, from erosion	2023	CCT/Biodiversity officer		Priority Environment Plan	
	62.	Embed natural capital and land use opportunities designed to sequester increased carbon emissions into all appropriate infrastructure and development schemes, countryside estate management plans and land management policies	Encourage new developments to have a positive climate and biodiversity impact	2026	Planning/CCT/Biodiversity officer		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (68), Local Plan E1	
	63.	Return Sweeps Ditch to a gravity fed stream	Reduce the energy use and emissions from running the Sweeps Ditch pump 24/7	2027	SO/Biodiversity Officer/			
	64.	Provide a home for wildlife around Council assets, through wildlife friendly planting and the provision of items such as bat and bird boxes and insect hotels	Increase of biodiversity around Council assets, demonstrating the Council's commitment to improving	2023	Biodiversity officer			

			biodiversity in the area and leading by example					
Key Action		Key Task	Desired Outcome	Target	Owner	Funding (if required)	Linked strategy	Progress
Adaptation – plan for the changes in the climate including flooding, drought, and hotter temperatures	65.	Continue to work with partners on the River Thames Scheme Working with the Environment Agency and other partners to deliver the River Thames (Flood Relief) Scheme and other flood mitigation initiatives	Protect Spelthorne from future flooding	Ongoing - work to be completed in 2029	GHCT	Capital commitment currently of £1.3m	Corporate Priority Environment Plan, Risk Register	
	66.	Work with Surrey County Council to develop a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan	Prepare for risks from climate change including heatwaves, droughts, flooding, supply chain disruption, invasive species	2023	CCO		Greener Futures Delivery Plan action point (66)	CCO on SCC working group feeding into Adaptation plan
	67.	Work with social care, education and children’s services providers on future impacts on vulnerable adults and children	Ensure that buildings are suitable for rising temperatures and are protected during heatwaves	2025	CCT/Family Support Team		Corporate Priority Communities Plan	
	68.	Communicate climate risks including flood, heat, fire, and drought to residents and	Help residents understand the risks of climate change, what they can do to	Ongoing	CCT/Comms		Risk Register	

		explain the actions they can take	reduce the risks and how to protect themselves					
	69.	Maintain and build on food resilience and networks developed in response to Covid-19, to ensure effective redistribution of food when needed	Surplus food redistributed via schemes such as community fridges, reducing methane emissions and securing food reliance	2024	CCT/ Neighbourhood Services/ Community Wellbeing		Corporate Priority Communities Plan	
	70.	Deliver where feasible, circular water systems that reuse grey water in new development, and integrated water management strategies (IWMS) in large-scale developments	Increase grey-water storage infrastructure capacity year on year	2028	Planning/CCT		Local Plan	
	71.	Continue to achieve sustainable flood mitigations for surface water flooding from new development	Trial incentives for private driveways to be converted to green space for ecological gain	2025	Planning/CCT		Local Plan E3	
	72.	Encourage the retrofitting of cool roofs by residents and businesses, targeting areas with strong urban heat island effects tree and shrub planting where appropriate	Decrease the heat island effect in the borough and the heat vulnerability	2027	CCT		Corporate Priority Environment Plan	

		to provide shelter from extreme weather						
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