REPORT TITLE: Update on the Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031)

To:

Services, Climate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3 February 2026

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Rosy Moore, Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment

Report by:
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Wards affected:
All

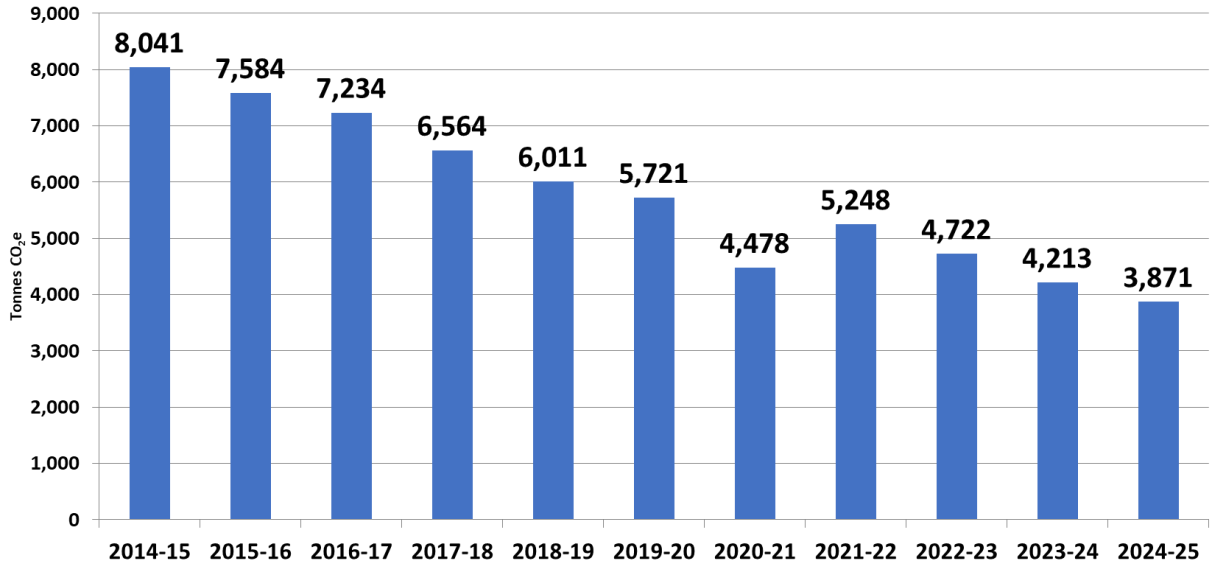
Director Approval: Director Lynne Miles confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Committee for decision.

1.	**Recommendations**
1.1	It is recommended that Services Committee: 1. Note the progress on carbon reduction and the findings of the public engagement. 2. Provide feedback on the proposed strategic direction for the 2026-2031 Climate Change Strategy.
2.	**Purpose and reason for the report**
2.1	This report provides an update on the development of the new Climate Change Strategy (2026-2031), which will replace the current strategy ending in March 2026. An updated Climate Change Strategy is required from April 2026 to continue to direct the Council's work on addressing climate change and working towards the Council's net zero target.
2.2	This report outlines the progress made in reducing carbon emissions, analysis of recent public engagement, and the proposed strategic direction and members are asked to note the findings and the timeline for final approval at Cabinet on 24 March 2026.

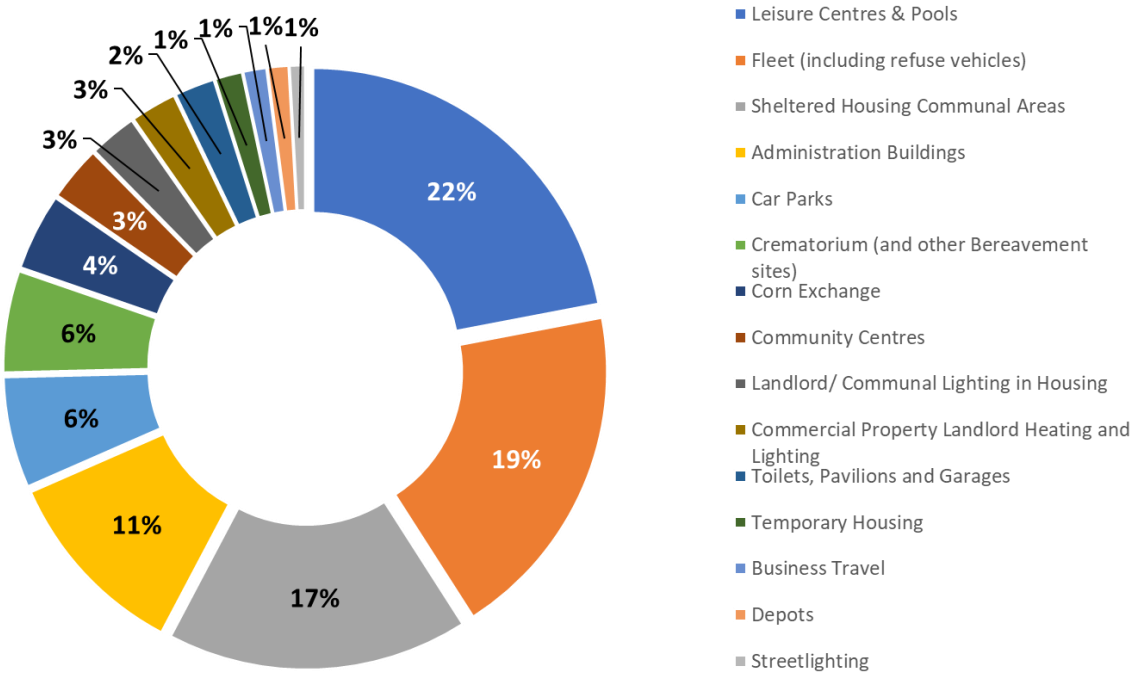
2.3	In particular, it would be helpful for the Committee to provide feedback on: • Whether we have sufficiently taken account of the public feedback? • Do Members have any views on what progress to date we should incorporate when developing the new strategy? • Do Members agree with the rationale for interim 2028 targets, taking account of the anticipated timescale for Local Government Reorganisation?Do Members have any views on the relative priority of identified next steps?
3. 3.1	**Alternative options considered** The alternative options considered were:
3.1.1	Let the current Climate Change Strategy end after March 2026. This option was rejected as it would mean the de-prioritisation of efforts to tackle climate change, isolated and fragmented project delivery, risk slower progress in carbon reduction, and decrease the Council's ability to achieve net zero by 2030.
3.1.2	Extend the current Climate Change Strategy for a year to cover the period up to the elections in April/ May 2027 for the new Unitary Council under Local Government Reorganisation. This option was rejected as there are important new issues to be considered in the next year, South Cambridgeshire District Council are also developing a new Strategy in parallel, and a longer time horizon is needed to plan for and deliver the Council's major decarbonisation projects in development such as the Civic Quarter and District Heat Network.
3.1.3	Develop a Climate Change Strategy for Greater Cambridge in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council. This was rejected in favour of working together on a co-ordinated approach to the development of both Councils' strategies that enable residents, stakeholders and businesses in both Council areas to participate in the engagements, be clear on the decisions being taken by each Council, understand how our shared services are involved in the delivery and enable alignment in the future as part of Local Government Reorganisation implementation.
4.	**Background and key issues**
4.1	The City Council has been tackling climate change since the launch of the Cambridge Climate Change Charter in 2007 and our first Climate Change Strategy in 2008. In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency, recognising the urgency of the action needed

	to limit global warming to 1.5°C and avoid severe and irreversible consequences for people and ecosystems. Real progress has been made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions both within the city, and the Council since 2014/15. While the Council, residents and partners in the city have taken a range of actions over this period, the reduction in emissions from Cambridge (and other local authority areas) has been driven primarily by the removal of the use of coal in electricity generation and the inclusion of higher levels of renewable energy in the national electricity mix.
4.2	**Cambridge City Council's emissions** Cambridge City Council's direct emissions from the council's own operations only make up approximately 0.7% of the total carbon emissions of the whole city. This is on the low side compared with many other comparable councils, although it does reflect the fact that our 'operational footprint' is relatively small compared with city's housing, transport and business demands, as well as recognising the considerable efforts to reduce our carbon emissions over the last ten years. Every year, Cambridge City Council reviews performance against its climate strategy and action plan and publishes a Greenhouse Gas Report, which describes the total of all our Scope 1, 2 + 3 emissions. Our most recent Greenhouse Gas Report from 2024/25 is included as Appendix A to this report. In 2024/25, (the last complete year that data is available), the City Council emissions had reduced by 51.9% from the 2014 baseline against which it measures its organisational progress. Cambridge City Council's total gross greenhouse gas emissions for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 were 3,871 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e). Emissions were 8.1% lower in 2024/25 than in 2023/24 (4,213 tCO_2e) and 51.9% lower than the 2014/15 baseline (emissions total was 8,041 tCO_2e) and so the emissions total is lower over the period by 4,169 tCO_2e.

Cambridge City Council's Carbon Emissions 2024/25 (tCO_2e)

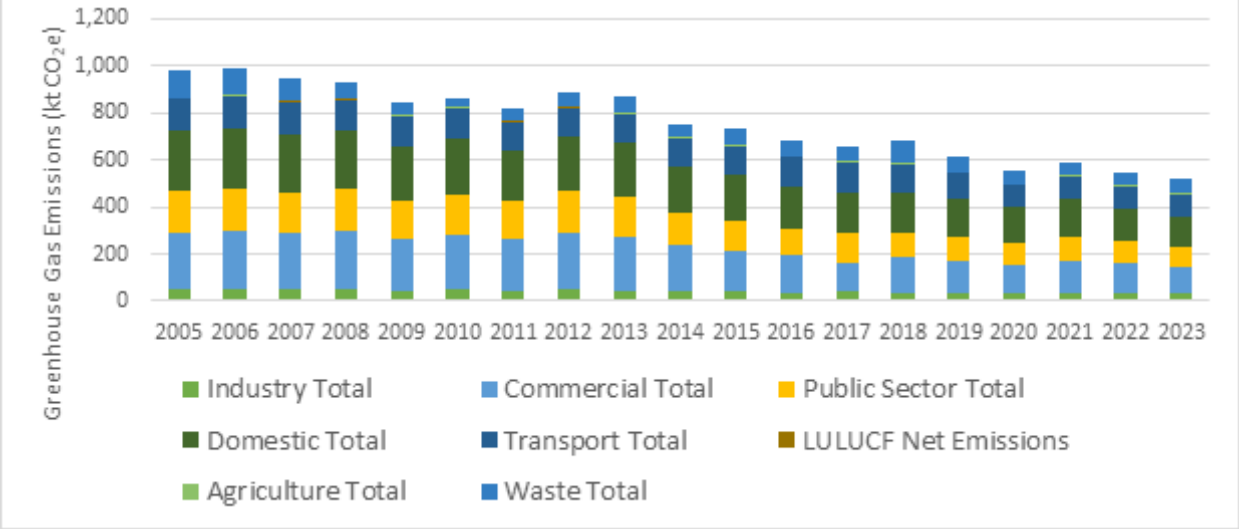
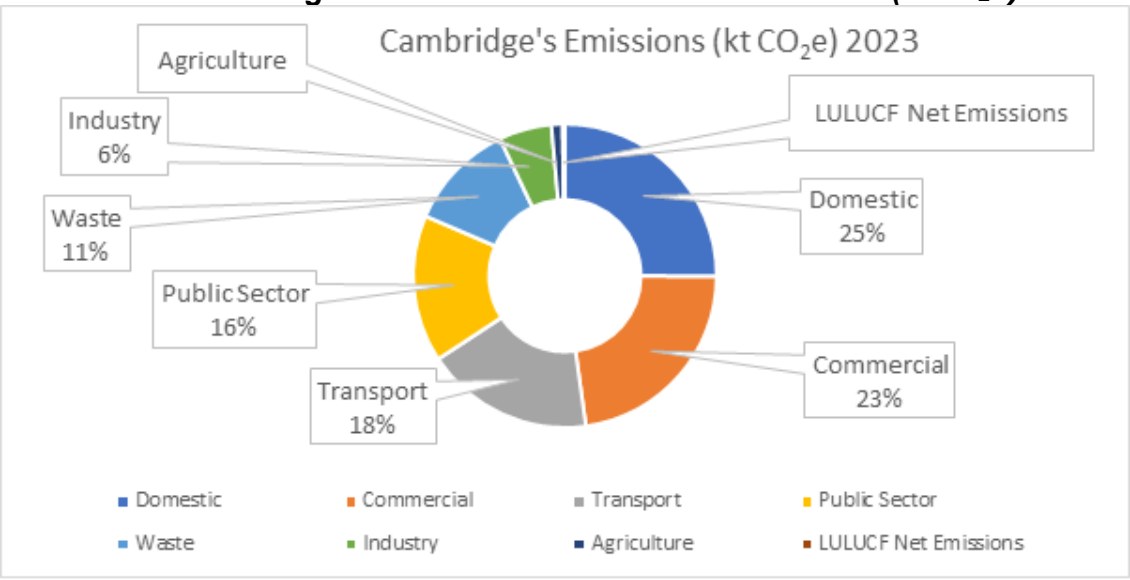


Sources of Cambridge City Council's Carbon Emissions 2024/25 (tCO_2e)



The greatest proportion of the Council's emissions came from leisure centres and pools (22%), followed by the Council's vehicles (19%). Some of the main sources of the council's emissions are the sites that use a significant amount of gas, including the leisure sites, sheltered housing communal areas, administration buildings, Corn Exchange and crematorium.

4.3	**How has the reduction in emissions been achieved?** **Decarbonising the national grid**: Often referred to as the 'greening the grid', the transition from fossil fuels to renewable electricity generation at a national level, has been a major driver in reducing Cambridge City Council's carbon footprint. As the UK's electricity supply becomes cleaner, the 'emissions factor' for every kilowatt-hour consumed has plummeted. This means that all our operations, which use electricity, will generate significantly fewer emissions, even if our energy use remains constant, thus amplifying the impact of our own efficiency upgrades, including switching from gas to electricity usage. **Electric waste vehicles**: Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is progressively replacing refuse collection vehicles with electric vehicles or low carbon alternatives at the point when they are due for replacement. A fourth electric refuse collection vehicle went into service in June 2024 and principally serves commercial waste customers in Cambridge, which has reduced the service's diesel use and therefore carbon emissions from 2024/25. **HVO Waste Vehicle**: Following a successful trial of using hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), there has been a gradual replacement of diesel refuse vehicles operating in Cambridge City, which has resulted in at least a 90% reduction in carbon emissions when compared to running the same vehicles on diesel. HVO burns much cleaner than traditional diesel, leading to less downtime and lower maintenance costs. The service has 54 RCVs, 4 are electric, (which is the maximum able to be charged at the site due to electricity grid constraints, until they can generate their own solar electricity), 30 are run on HVO and 24 on diesel. The fleet has now transitioned away from diesel by 59%, with further plans underway. **Event generators HVO**: The Council's Events team now uses HVO instead of diesel to power the generators used at large events that the Council organises in the city's parks, including the Cambridge Folk Festival and the annual fireworks event. This change of fuel has significantly reduced the carbon emissions, with an overall reduction of approximately 315 tonnes CO_2.

	Parkside and Abbey Pools Air Source Heat Pumps: With funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, a £1.7m project installed air source heat pumps, solar PV panels and energy efficiency upgrades in 2022. Overall, this has resulted in a significant reduction in gas consumption, and a saving of over 2,000 tonnes CO_2.
4.4	**Cambridge emissions** In 2023 (the last complete year that data is available), Cambridge's greenhouse gas emissions had reduced by 45% since 2005. Per capita emissions have reduced over the same period, from 8.4 t CO_2e per person, to 3.5 t CO_2e. ***Cambridge Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2023 ($ktCO_2e$)***  [1] UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2023. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, August 2025. ***Sources of Cambridge's Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2023 ($ktCO_2e$)*** 

	Twenty-five per cent of the emissions were estimated to be from domestic sources and are the highest proportion, which is common with other local authority areas (national average was 22%). Commercial properties (shops and businesses) account for the next most significant proportion of emissions in Cambridge (23%) which is a much higher proportion than the UK average emissions from this source, which was 8%. Emissions from transport was the third highest proportion in Cambridge at 18%. This is much lower than the UK average which was 32%, mainly as a result of the city having fewer main roads passing through than other areas and that, as a compact city, it is easier to use lower carbon options to travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport, as is demonstrated particularly the high cycling rates in the city. Public sector (councils, health and education bodies) emissions are significant at 16% which is high compared to the UK average (3%). This is a result of the size and number of universities, hospitals and other public organisations in the city. As with the Council's own emissions, much of the city-wide reduction to date is also attributed to the decarbonisation/ greening of the national grid rather than local action. It is notable though that, as an organisation, Cambridge City Council was only directly responsible for 0.7% of total carbon emissions in the city in 2023. This means that success in reducing emissions depends on collective city-wide action, where the Council's role is one of leadership and influence rather than total control.
4.5	**How do we compare?** Cambridge City Council performs extremely strongly compared with other UK councils on carbon reduction and sustainability. Cambridge is currently one of the highest-performing cities in the UK for sustainability. It was ranked the UK's most sustainable city in the 2025 Next X Green Cities Index, ahead of cities such as Exeter, Bristol and Oxford. This ranking reflects Cambridge's strong environmental policies, efficient infrastructure, and high access to open space.

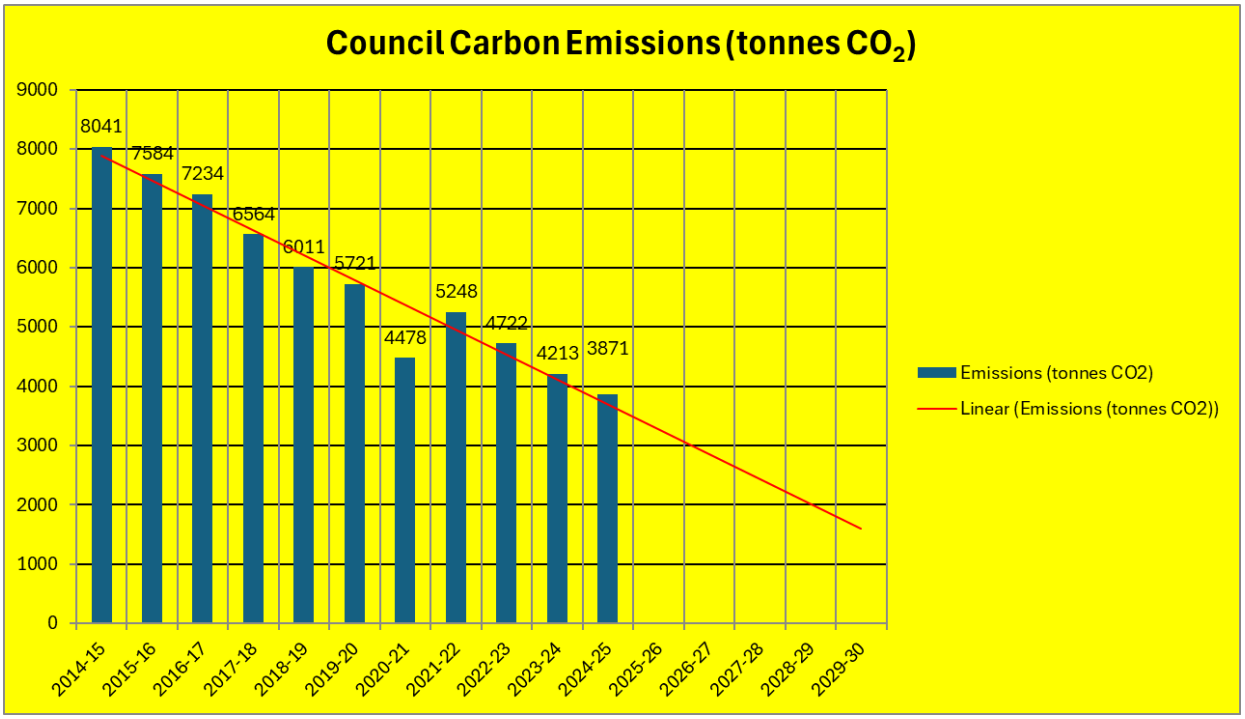
	In the 2023 Climate Emergency UK Council Climate Action Scorecards, Cambridge City Council was joint 3rd out of 186 district councils, alongside Oxford and just behind Lancaster. This reflects strong performance across a wide set of climate action indicators. More recently, in 2025, we have dropped to 8th place, with a number of other councils making significant increases over the last few years. The areas where our scores particularly dropped were in Planning, Land Use and Transport, some of which are outside of our control. However, the development of the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, (which is intended to have strong sustainability and net zero policies), and indeed our new Climate Change Strategy, should make a difference to our scores in future, and will continue to use the scorecards to see where we may be able to improve and learn from good practice elsewhere. Cambridge City Council is particularly considered as a leader in low-carbon housing, including running major retrofit and new build programmes, including houses built to our 'Cam Standard' which ensures that every new home delivers low operational energy usage, high levels of thermal comfort, and strong resilience to future climate impacts. Cambridge has also been recognised internationally and is listed on the global Carbon Disclosure Project City A-List for climate action for the third consecutive year, one of only 120 cities worldwide. As one of only 20 UK cities on this list, this score recognises the positive action being taken to reduce emissions and increase the resilience of the city to the impacts of climate change. Cambridge City Council performs strongly against the main LGA-supported carbon and sustainability metrics and tools. While the LGA does not have a single consolidated sustainability score, it provides standardised approaches that allow councils to measure and benchmark carbon reduction and climate action. Based on those, Cambridge's performance is as follows: • **Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool**: This tool measures operational emissions from council estates, fleet, street lighting, and other operational sources. Cambridge City Council performs very well, reducing its operational emissions by 8.1% in 2024/25, as mentioned above. These reductions place Cambridge ahead of many councils in terms of operational decarbonisation.

	• **DESNZ Local Authority Emissions Statistics**: These official figures provide the standard national method for area-wide climate performance. Cambridge's emissions have fallen by more than 47% since 2005. This is a substantial reduction and compares favourably with many other urban authorities. It indicates strong area-wide progress in line with nationally recognised metrics. • **LGA Sustainability Programme**: The LGA's sustainability programme focuses on capability building, tools, planning and governance. Cambridge City Council aligns very strongly with these expectations. It has major retrofit programmes, strong governance structures and climate leadership, reflected in national assessments showing Cambridge as one of the highest-performing councils in the UK. Its collaboration and engagement work also performs well. • **Waste Emissions Calculator (waste-related emissions)**: The LGA encourages councils to measure emissions from waste and recycling operations. Cambridge City Council performs well here too, as demonstrated by the move to electric and HVO refuse collection vehicles and decarbonisation of waste operations. This places us ahead of many councils still reliant on diesel fleets, as less than 5% of local authorities have decarbonised their entire fleets. Overall, Cambridge City Council performs exceptionally well across all major carbon and sustainability measures. It is reducing operational emissions quickly, achieving strong city-wide carbon reductions, delivering large-scale retrofit programmes, improving waste-related emissions and demonstrating high organisational capability. Using the various tools and frameworks available, Cambridge City Council is performing at the level of a national leader. However, there is still lots to do and investment to make if we are to meet our 2030 Net Zero target, without substantial offsetting.
4.6	**Feedback from Public Engagement** As mentioned in section 6.1, a public engagement exercise on the Climate Change Strategy was conducted between October and November 2025. The full report of the engagement is enclosed as Appendix B. The findings from this exercise have informed both content and emphasis within the new Climate Change Strategy for 2026-2031. The

	following examples demonstrate how the results of the public engagement informed and refined the development of the Strategy: **Prioritising Actions**: The engagement exercise helped us to prioritise areas of work to take forward in the implementation of the strategy. For example, a lot of support for one of the Strategy's new focus areas: supporting and applying research and innovation on climate change, so we will prioritise this within the implementation of the strategy. **Council Responsibilities**: Some of the feedback suggested that recipients were confused about what different councils were responsible, (e.g. suggesting that Cambridge City Council repaired potholes, when this is a County Council responsibility). We therefore identified a need to show clearly what the City Council is directly responsible and therefore where we can have the most impact. In parallel, we also need to highlight the areas where we are not the lead organisation and do not have control over. We will be creating a diagram to help explain our direct areas of responsibility. **New Projects**: We received some strong suggestions of ideas the Council could explore. Some of these are already included in our action plan so it helps us to understand that we are aligned with our residents and reinforces the need to implement these. We will also look to explore some of the additional ideas suggested such as more visual communications and engagement, and annual environment events. **Guidance and Information**: A number of respondents requested guidance or a resource of information to help individuals take action on climate change. In some instances, we already have a lot of guidance such as home improvement guides and a Council approved list of retrofit contractors. This highlighted the need for us to share these more widely, more frequently as part of our communications and engagement with residents. We'll also use these ideas to create more resources such as best practice case studies. **Growth**: There was some concern about the rapid growth in Cambridge potentially damaging biodiversity and undermining climate goals. This reinforced the need for the new Local Plan to include strong climate change mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure that new development is required to consider climate change and biodiversity,

	and to show within the Strategy how the Climate Change Strategy is aligned with the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service's work. **Impact of Climate Change**: Responses reflected a need for further and continued training and awareness raising, both within the council and for the public, on the impacts of climate change and the solutions to build resilience. This is something the Council already provides for both staff and residents so reinforced the need to continue this education offering, raise awareness of it and explore the feasibility of increasing it in the future. **Offsetting**: Concern was raised about the principle of using of offsetting. This reinforced the Council's stance that we need to prioritise carbon reduction over offsetting wherever possible and if needed, ensure any offsetting is done through local schemes and it is always verified.
4.7	**Proposed Climate Change Strategy** The new Climate Change Strategy will be presented in three sections, reflecting the Council's differing levels of authority, control and influence: 1. **Sustainable City Council** (High Control): reducing our carbon emissions towards our Net Zero target, increasing our organisation's climate resilience and enhancing the sustainability of our organisation. This includes focussing on the Council's own operational buildings, fleet, and business travel, as well as major infrastructure projects like the Civic Quarter and the proposed City Centre Heat Network. 2. **Sustainable City** (Medium Control/ Influence): Working with residents and businesses to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change and protect and enhance nature in the city, through policies and partnerships where the Council has a mandate, such as the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (which aims for Net Zero new buildings) and the shared waste service. 3. **Working Together for a Sustainable Cambridge** (Influence/ Facilitation): Supporting and encouraging partners to collaborate and explore city wide approaches to reduce the city's emissions and adapt to climate change.

	The Strategy will set out our continued and renewed drive to build on the achievements to date, respond to changes in policy and to set out a clear pathway to achieving our net zero vision for the city and for the Council. Our focus in 2026-31 is to: 1. Reduce the City Council's own emissions and increase organisational climate resilience. 2. Support the city to reduce Cambridge's emissions - mitigating and adapting to climate change - to increase its climate resilience. 3. Protect and increase our nature and biodiversity. 4. Achieve better outcomes for people's daily lives - with lower bills, cleaner air, more comfortable homes, greener neighbourhoods, new job opportunities and stronger local economies. 5. Ensure that our climate change strategy is fair and inclusive, delivering a just transition, so that those most affected by climate change are not left behind and the benefits of addressing climate change - improved the health, wellbeing and livelihoods, for current and future generations - are shared widely and felt by all. The strategy sets out detailed objectives and an action plan that will: 1. Reduce the Council's direct emissions to net zero and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. 2. Use our policy and financial powers to create systemic change. 3. Convene and collaborate with local partners, businesses, organisations and residents to act. 4. Influence Government, industry and regulators to make the necessary changes and investments needed to enable the city and the rest of the UK to achieve net zero.
4.8	**Future Direction and Local Government Reorganisation** The new strategy will bridge the transition toward Local Government Reorganisation in 2028. **Interim Targets:** Given the fact that the Strategy will extend beyond the anticipated tenure of Cambridge City Council, we are proposing to establish interim targets for March 2028, in order to maintain momentum during the transition to a new unitary council.

	Residual Emissions: The strategy recognises that there is likely to be a need to consider addressing unavoidable residual emissions through local offsetting schemes, although this is likely to be after Local Government Reorganisation in 2028. **Next Steps:** Following the Scrutiny Committee's feedback, the final Strategy and detailed Action Plan will be submitted for Cabinet approval on 24 March 2026.
4.9	**New Strategy Proposals** In order to set realistic targets for Cambridge City Council's carbon emissions, we have plotted the reduction over the last ten years. This shows the following trend, which if continued, would suggest that emissions could reduce by approximately 500 tCO_2e) per annum, resulting in 2,500 tCO_2e) by March 2028 and 1,500 tCO_2e) by March 2030.  These targets assume that the reduction in carbon emissions resulting from the ongoing decarbonisation/ greening of the national grid continues at a similar pace as over the last ten years. A range of projects have been identified, which could contribute towards achieving the anticipated reduction. These focus particularly on those areas of the Council's operation, (as identified in section 4.2), which make up the highest proportion of the Council's

	emissions, (i.e. leisure centres and fleet). The new Strategy includes the following specific projects: **City Council-operated buildings (collectively 24% of all emissions)**: Projects include: **City Centre Heat Network**: We are collaborating with the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University to assess the feasibility of delivering design a City Centre Heat Network. Targeted for 2030, this network aims to supply renewable heat to hard-to-decarbonise heritage buildings like the Guildhall, Corn Exchange and Parkside Pool, which are also harder to decarbonise due to the age, construction and size of the buildings. **Civic Quarter Project**: This redevelopment targets exemplar outcomes, including operational net zero for the Guildhall and water neutrality across the site. We are aiming for a 65% reduction in Corn Exchange emissions through upgrades to the building's energy efficiency and solar power. This major redevelopment project, if approved, will upgrade the Guildhall, Corn Exchange and Market and could be completed in December 2028, but could include a future connection to the proposed city centre district heating network. **Building Management Systems:** We are optimising Building Management Systems (BMS) across other estate buildings, in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs and energy usage, and so have prioritised decarbonisation feasibility studies for following key sites during January 2026: • Crematorium • Trumpington Pavilion • Clay Farm Community Centre • Grand Arcade main car park **Leisure facilities (22% of all emissions)**: The Council's leisure facilities, were responsible for the greatest proportion of the Council's emissions in 2024/25. Through the procurement of a new leisure management contract for 2026-2041, we will seek to reduce carbon emissions at the pools and leisure facilities towards net zero through

	requirements for capital investment into the facilities and involvement in city-wide scheme, e.g. possible district heating at Parkside Pools. The following sites have been prioritised for feasibility studies in early 2026: • Abbey Pool • Parkside Pool • Kings Hedges Learner Pool **City Council Fleet (19% of all emissions)**: proposals to transition from current diesel fleet to electric vehicles, are currently being finalised and should result in a significant reduction in carbon emissions, further details of which should be confirmed later in 2026. With the development of the new solar generation facilities at Waterbeach, by WREN, this will allow current diesel waste fleet to transition to electric vehicles beyond that which can be supported by the national grid capacity, which should also result in a significant reduction in carbon emissions for the estimated proportion of the waste service operating within Cambridge City Council area, further details of which should be confirmed later in 2026. **Sheltered housing (17% of all emissions)**: Awaiting detail of proposed projects once feasibility studies have been completed in early 2026, and the necessary funding has been identified and secured. **Commercial properties (3% of all emissions)**: Because the Council is responsible for heating and lighting to communal areas of a small number of our commercial properties, this energy consumption contributes to our emissions and is included in the Council's annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) report. We will be able confirm specific projects later in 2026, once feasibility studies are complete and funding is secured.
5.	**Corporate plan**
5.1	Within Cambridge City Council's Corporate Plan (Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council), priority 1 is: Leading Cambridge's response to the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.

	The Climate Change Strategy is one of the key strategies to deliver this priority, alongside the Biodiversity Strategy, the Urban Forestry Strategy and the Joint Local Plan.
6.	**Consultation, engagement and communication**
6.1	A public engagement exercise on the Climate Change Strategy was conducted in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire District Council, between October and November 2025. The two Councils jointly hosted the engagement survey to recognise the fact that we have a number of shared services and the reality that there are a number of residents and businesses who interact with the two areas, depending on where they live and work. The survey received 486 responses, of which 96% identified themselves as residents of Greater Cambridge, with 4 responses from businesses, 5 from community or voluntary organisations and 5 from visitors to the area. The survey aimed to capture responses on how the people who live and work in Cambridge felt about the emerging Climate Change Strategy and provide an opportunity for the public to shape the strategy to reflect the needs and ambitions of Cambridge and its residents. In addition to the survey, both Councils hosted face-to-face drop-in sessions with six sessions taking place across Cambridge in libraries, community centres and shopping centres, which attracted limited attendance, and considerable effort was made to try reach young people and cover all areas of the city. Going forward, the intention is to offer those who engaged in the exercise the opportunity to receive updates and ongoing communication about the progress and implementation of the strategy. The full report of the engagement is enclosed as Appendix B. Key takeaways include: **High Levels of Support:** 86% of respondents support the Council's vision for the new strategy. The Nature and Water objective received the strongest individual support. **Experienced Impacts:** Over half of respondents stated they have already experienced the local effects of climate change, specifically extreme heat and water scarcity.

	Barriers to Action: Respondents identified high upfront costs, (255 mentions), as the primary barrier to taking personal climate action. **Strategic Needs:** Stakeholders expressed a strong desire for more clear communication, practical guidance, and financial support, (such as grant funding), to enable them to decarbonise their own homes and businesses. Alongside the public engagement exercise, we put out a Call for Information asking stakeholders and organisations to share their plans which will help to build a city-wide picture and identify opportunities for collaboration or area-based working and stimulate opportunities for innovation. This exercise attracted contributions from 15 organisations, including Anglia Ruskin University, ARM and Cambridge University Hospitals (Addenbrookes), as well as a number of community organisations and provides a good starting point for collating good practice and wider engagement and sharing envisaged in Section 3 of the Strategy, in terms of trying to develop more of a city-wide strategy that captures and celebrates work being done by other employers, groups and organisations across the city.
7.	**Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact**
7.1	The outcome of this process will be the development and adoption of a new Climate Change Strategy for 2026-31. Anticipated outcomes from the Strategy include a substantial reduction in carbon emissions through the decarbonisation of council buildings and fleets, alongside a rise in urban climate resilience achieved by increasing the tree canopy to 20% and improving water management. Residents are expected to benefit from lower energy bills through extensive housing retrofits, enhanced public health from improved air quality and a just transition that ensures vulnerable communities are supported.

	Ultimately, the strategy aims to foster a sustainable local economy and a ‘nature-rich’ city where cleaner air, greener spaces and resilient infrastructure safeguard the quality of life for future generations.
8	**Implications**
8.1	**Relevant risks**

Risks	Mitigation
That the reduction in carbon emissions resulting from the ongoing decarbonisation/ greening of the national grid does not continue at a similar pace as over the last ten years.	Monitor trends closely and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.
That a change in government or national policies/ legislation reduce the level of political and financial support for climate adaptation and the reduction of carbon emissions, (e.g. current consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework is proposing to limit Planning Authority’s powers to set climate change and adaptation policies).	Monitor closely and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate, with a view to participating in relevant consultations and lobbying government if deemed necessary.
That specific projects arising from the strategy prove to be unaffordable or undeliverable due to cost inflation or failure to secure additional funding/finance.	Monitor closely and consider alternative projects and funding routes if necessary.
That projects fail to deliver the carbon or financial savings anticipated.	Monitor closely and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.
That we fail to get the buy-in and support from key partners to progress specific projects.	Consider alternative partners, if appropriate and escalate to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.

	That the transition towards Local Government Reorganisation delays or curtails progress on implementing the Climate Change Strategy.	Continue to work with other councils for better alignment in advance of the new unitary formation and monitor closely, escalating to senior management and/ or Cabinet as appropriate.
	Financial Implications	
8.2	There are no direct financial implications from the strategy. However, for specific projects arising from the strategy, funding will need to be secured through the Council's normal budget bidding process and supported by detailed business cases. Wherever possible, appropriate external funding sources will be explored to reduce the financial burden on Cambridge City Council and allow us to deliver more than our own funds would allow.	
	Legal Implications	
8.3	There are no legal implications relating directly to the Strategy, although the strategy will consider any relevant legal requirements such as the new Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) regulations and the target of requiring commercial properties to achieve an EPC rating of C or higher by 2027 and B by 2030.	
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications	
8.4	During the development of the Strategy, and prior to it being presented to Cabinet, a new Equality Impact Assessment will be produced to inform and assess the equalities impacts of the proposed Strategy and its actions.	
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications	
8.5	The Climate Change Strategy will have a high positive impact on the net zero, climate change and the environment by setting out a planned approach to: • reducing the Council's carbon emissions • setting high standards for residents, businesses and organisations to reduce their carbon emissions and manage climate risks • working in partnership with, influencing and learning from other organisations to address the causes and effects of climate change.	

	Procurement Implications
8.6	There are no procurement implications, however, for any specific projects arising from the strategy, these will be delivered in line the Council's procurement policies and regulations, taking advice and input from the Procurement team, as appropriate.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	There are no community safety implications.
9.	**Background documents** Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	Cambridge City Council Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026 Climate Change Strategy - Cambridge City Council Cambridge City Council Annual Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management plan Update 2023/24 ClimateChangeStrategyUpdateCommitteeReportSeptember2024.pdf
10.	**Appendices**
10.1	Appendix A - Greenhouse Gas Report 2024/25 Appendix B - Bioregional Report on Public engagement results – December 2025
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact: David Wright, Inclusive Economy and Climate Manager, tel: 01223 457599 email: david.wright@cambridge.gov.uk