



Climate Change Action Plan – Annual Progress Report 2025-2026

Executive Summary

This report outlines progress in delivering the Council's Climate Change Action Plan during 2025/26. Strong progress has been achieved, with over 90% of actions either progressing or complete.

Progress has been consistent across all six themes, with early successes emerging in priority areas such as Resource Management, Transport and Economy. A key focus this year has been establishing baseline data and strengthening reporting systems to support the development of SMART targets for 2026/27.

The Action Plan remains on track, supported by effective governance and cross-departmental working. While some risks remain—particularly in relation to resources, funding and data quality—the Council is well placed to build on current progress and deliver its long-term climate mitigation and adaptation objectives.

Introduction and Context

Under the requirements of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, councils are obligated to prepare, publish and regularly update Climate Change Action Plans on a five-year cycle. These plans must set out how councils will deliver carbon emissions reductions and climate adaptation measures.

The Council published its Climate Change Action Plan in December 2024, outlining a structured approach to addressing climate change across Antrim and Newtownabbey over the subsequent five years. The Plan identifies both current and projected climate impacts within the Borough and establishes a framework of high-level actions to address these challenges, ensure legislative compliance and fulfil the Council's environmental responsibilities.

To support effective implementation, Internal Audit worked with officers to establish a robust reporting framework. This enables departments to systematically monitor and review progress against the actions for which they are responsible, ensuring accountability and coordinated delivery across the organisation. In addition, under the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, councils are required to formally assess and report on progress in climate mitigation and adaptation every three and five years respectively. As such, all departments play a

critical role in delivering the overarching objectives of the Action Plan and meeting statutory reporting requirements.

Summary of the Overall Progress

The level of progress achieved reflects widespread delivery activity across departments. Of the 68 actions identified across six strategic themes, 62 have demonstrated measurable progress, 4 have been fully achieved and embedded into standard Council operations and 2 remain relevant but have been deferred to future years due to longer-term delivery requirements or external dependencies.

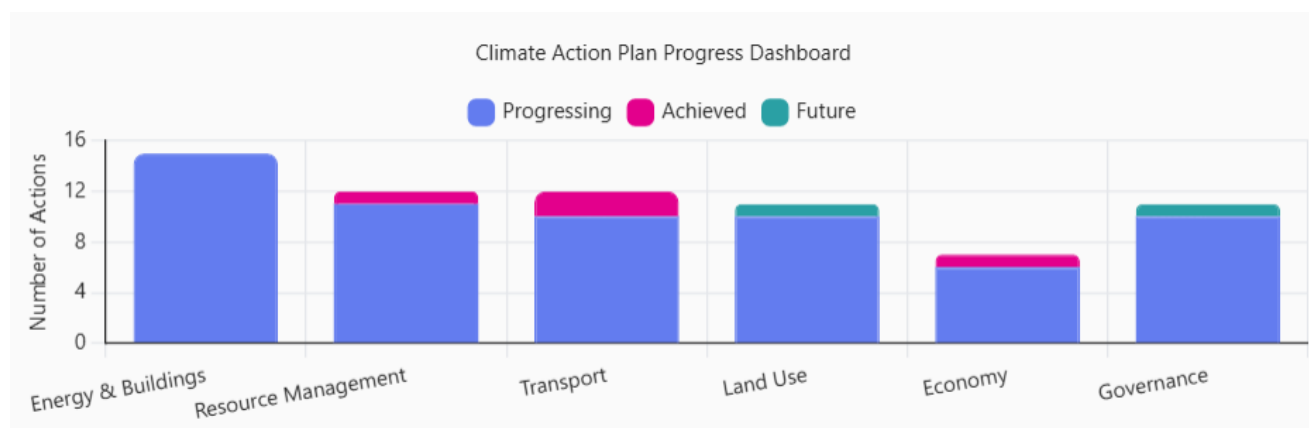
Progress reflects active implementation across departments, with most actions advancing in line with expected delivery stages and completed actions embedded into routine operations. Deferred actions remain limited and are primarily linked to longer-term or externally dependent activity.

Work during the year has also focused on strengthening monitoring and reporting arrangements, including improvements in data quality and the development of structures to support more measurable, outcome-focused targets in future reporting periods.

This will strengthen future monitoring, improve accountability and support the Council's statutory reporting duties under climate change legislation.

Overall, the Action Plan remains on track and provides a realistic framework for delivering the Council's climate mitigation and adaptation objectives over the coming years.

Progress by Strategic Theme



Energy & Buildings

The Energy & Buildings theme contains 15 actions, all of which are currently progressing. This reflects continued work to improve the energy performance of Council buildings, support more efficient use of energy across the estate and identify opportunities to reduce emissions from operational assets. Although no actions have yet been completed or deferred under this theme, all are actively progressing, indicating a strong foundation for future delivery.

Resource Management

The Resource Management theme includes 12 actions, with 11 progressing and 1 already achieved. This demonstrates positive progress in embedding more sustainable approaches to waste, materials and resource use within Council operations. The early achievement recorded under this theme indicates that some actions are already moving beyond project delivery and becoming part of normal service activity.

Transport

The Transport theme comprises 12 actions, of which 10 are progressing and 2 have been achieved. This represents one of the strongest areas of early delivery within the Action Plan. Progress under this theme supports efforts to reduce emissions associated with fleet, staff travel and wider transport activity, while the completed actions show that practical improvements are already being incorporated into routine Council operations.

Land Use

The Land Use theme has 11 actions in total, with 10 progressing and 1 deferred to future years. This theme is important for strengthening the Borough's resilience to climate impacts and supporting nature-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation. The deferred action remains relevant, but its delivery is dependent on longer-term planning, resources or external factors. Overall progress within this theme remains positive.

Economy

The Economy theme contains 7 actions, with 6 progressing and 1 achieved. This demonstrates that climate considerations are being incorporated into economic development, business engagement and wider sustainability activity. The achieved action provides an early example of how climate objectives can be embedded into economic workstreams while supporting wider Council priorities.

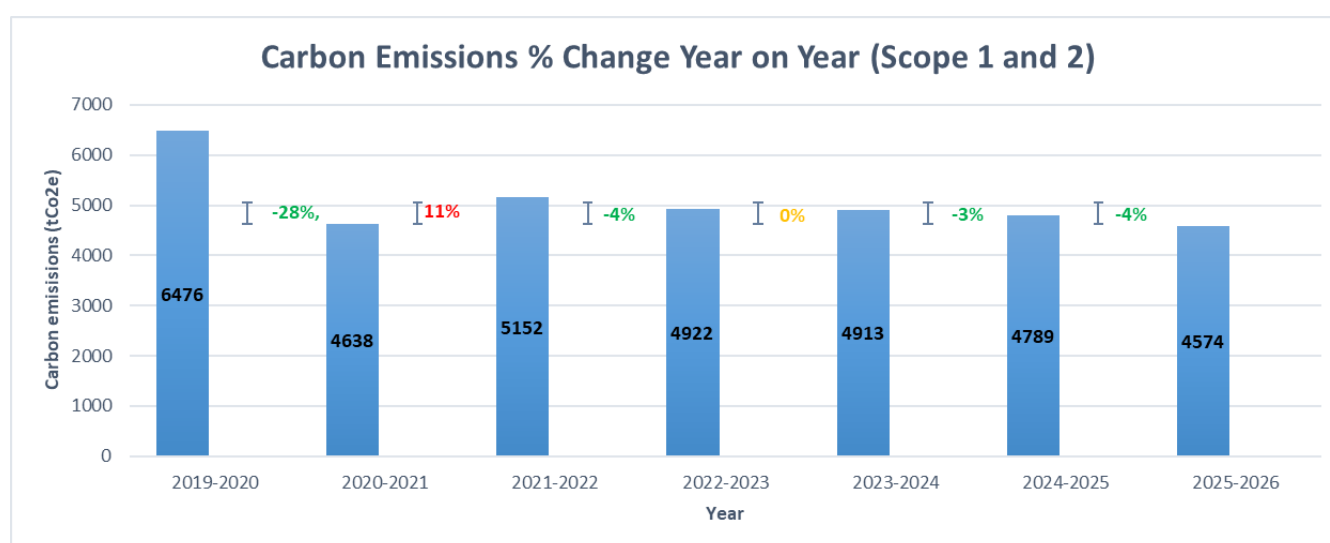
Governance

The Governance theme includes 11 actions, with 10 progressing and 1 deferred to future years. Progress in this area is particularly important as it supports accountability, coordination, monitoring and statutory reporting across the full Action Plan. The deferred action will require further consideration as reporting arrangements mature, but the overall level of progress demonstrates that governance structures are continuing to develop and support delivery.

Progress across the Climate Change Action Plan demonstrates a high level of activity, with over 90% of actions either progressing or already complete. Early success is evident, particularly within the Resource Management, Transport and Economy themes, where a number of actions have been fully achieved and embedded into business-as-usual operations. Only a small number of actions have been deferred beyond 2026/27, indicating that the overall programme remains realistic and deliverable within planned timeframes. Importantly, performance is consistent across all six themes, with none showing significant underperformance and all contributing positively to the delivery of the Plan's objectives. Overall, this reflects a strong and balanced programme of work that is on track to deliver its intended climate outcomes.

Carbon Emissions Data

Council has invested significant time in establishing robust internal systems to accurately calculate Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, in line with DAERA reporting mechanisms. The accompanying graph illustrates total Scope 1 and 2 emissions over the period from 2019/20 to 2025/26, alongside year-on-year percentage changes. This data demonstrates a consistent downward trend in emissions, with the Council achieving an overall 29% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions across the reporting period. This reflects the effectiveness of the Council's targeted interventions and improved data management in driving measurable carbon reductions.



Work is now underway to expand emissions reporting to include Scope 3 emissions. Initial focus is being placed on key categories, including Purchased Goods and Services, Fuel and Energy Related Activities, Waste Generated in Operations, Business Travel and Employee Commuting. This next phase represents a significant step forward in developing a more comprehensive understanding of the Council's indirect emissions and will support the identification of further opportunities to reduce its overall carbon footprint.

Challenges and Risks

While overall progress against the Climate Change Action Plan is positive, a number of challenges and risks may affect the pace and consistency of delivery over the remaining years of the Plan. These risks are not considered to undermine the overall programme at this stage, but they will require continued monitoring, coordination and management to ensure actions remain on track and outcomes can be evidenced.

Key challenges and risks include:

- **Resource and capacity pressures:** Delivery of the Plan relies on input from multiple departments alongside existing service priorities. Competing workloads, staffing pressures and specialist knowledge requirements may affect the ability to progress some actions within planned timescales.
- **Data quality and consistency:** The first reporting year has focused on establishing baselines and improving performance indicators. Some data sources are still being refined and inconsistent data capture could limit the Council's ability to measure progress accurately or demonstrate impact.
- **Funding and affordability:** Some climate actions, particularly those relating to energy efficiency, fleet transition, infrastructure and adaptation measures, may require significant capital investment. Delivery may therefore be affected by budget availability, competing financial pressures and access to external funding.
- **External dependencies:** A number of actions depend on wider policy development, regional infrastructure, supply chains, partner organisations or legislative guidance. Delays or changes outside the Council's direct control may affect delivery timescales.
- **Behaviour change and engagement:** Achieving long-term climate outcomes will require sustained engagement from staff, Elected Members, residents, businesses and community partners. Limited awareness, competing priorities or low participation could reduce the effectiveness of some actions.

- **Climate impacts and service disruption:** Increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events may place additional pressure on Council services, assets and infrastructure. This could increase costs, divert resources and require adaptation actions to be reprioritised.
- **Governance and accountability:** Continued progress depends on clear ownership of actions, regular reporting and effective cross-departmental coordination. Without sustained governance arrangements, there is a risk that progress becomes inconsistent or difficult to evidence.

To mitigate these risks, the Council will continue to strengthen its reporting framework, refine baseline data, develop SMART targets for 2026/27 and maintain regular engagement with action owners across departments. Ongoing monitoring will help identify emerging issues early and support timely escalation where additional support, resources or decisions are required.

Next Steps

The next phase of delivery will focus on maintaining momentum across all six strategic themes, strengthening the evidence base for climate action and ensuring that progress can be clearly measured, reported and demonstrated. Building on the work completed during 2025/26, departments will be expected to continue progressing assigned actions, refine performance information and identify any additional support required to keep delivery on track.

Priority next steps for 2026/27 include:

- **Finalise SMART targets:** Develop specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound targets for relevant actions, using the baseline data gathered during 2025/26.
- **Strengthen baseline and performance data:** Continue to improve data quality, consistency and reporting arrangements so that progress can be monitored accurately across all departments and strategic themes.
- **Maintain regular departmental reporting:** Continue engagement with action owners to review progress, identify delivery barriers and ensure climate actions remain embedded within service planning and operational decision-making.
- **Progress deferred and longer-term actions:** Review the actions deferred beyond 2026/27 to confirm ongoing relevance, dependencies, resource implications and realistic delivery timescales.
- **Prioritise high-impact actions:** Identify actions with the greatest potential to reduce emissions, improve resilience, support behaviour change or deliver wider environmental and community benefits.

- **Support statutory reporting requirements:** Use the reporting framework to prepare for future mitigation and adaptation reporting duties under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and associated regulations.
- **Review risks and resource needs:** Continue to monitor delivery risks, funding requirements, staffing capacity and external dependencies, escalating issues where decisions or additional support are required.
- **Share learning and good practice:** Capture examples of successful delivery through case studies and internal communications to encourage replication across Council services.

These next steps will help ensure that the Climate Change Action Plan remains a live and accountable framework for delivery. They will also support the Council in demonstrating continued progress, responding to emerging climate risks and preparing for future statutory reporting milestones.

Conclusion

The first year of reporting demonstrates that the Climate Change Action Plan is establishing a solid foundation for long-term delivery across Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. Implementation is now embedded across service areas, with clear evidence of activity progressing from initial planning through to operational delivery.

Progress to date highlights the Council's ability to integrate climate action within core service functions. At the same time, the continued advancement of actions across all thematic areas reflects the level of organisational coordination required to support sustained change.

Ongoing delivery will require continued management of risks, particularly in relation to resourcing, funding, data quality and external dependencies. Maintaining effective governance arrangements and cross-departmental engagement will therefore be essential to sustaining progress and addressing delivery challenges.

Looking ahead, the Council is well placed to build on the progress achieved by strengthening performance frameworks, prioritising high-impact actions and preparing for forthcoming statutory reporting requirements. This will support a transition from activity-based delivery towards demonstrating measurable climate outcomes over the lifetime of the Action Plan.

Appendix 1 Departmental Actions for 2026-2027

Strategic Theme	Lead Department	High-Level Action from CCAP	Annual Overview 2025/26	SMART Target 2026/27	KPIs
Economy	Arts & Culture	Explore opportunities to make events more sustainable.	All events now have a baseline of sustainable measures that are always implemented, where applicable. Measures include: E-Tickets, Use of Water Refill Stations and promotion of these before events to increase use of reusable bottles, use of QR codes to reduce paper consumption, use of super silent generators to minimise noise pollution and disturbance of wildlife, increased use of LED lights, sustainable measures built in to Food Vendor contracts. Waste	By 31 March 2027, introduce and implement at least four new sustainable measures at council-led events, building on existing sustainability measures and ensure each measure is recorded across relevant events.	100% of council-led events will use silent or low noise fireworks. At least 40% of light installations at the Enchanted Winter Garden event will use LED or energy efficient lighting. Improve infrastructure to increase provision of portable water stations (Target: 2) at the 2026 Beer Festival. Use battery powered generators with integrated solar support for audio systems at a minimum of two council-led events. Establish baseline figures of the number of low emission food vendors on the approved procurement list.

			generation is tracked and processed to extract as much recycling as possible.		
Energy & Buildings	Capital Development	Ensure sustainable principles are integrated into all major construction and refurbishment projects at the design phase and the project specification.	100% of projects include some sustainable principles.	Ensure sustainable principles are integrated into capital development projects at the project brief stage between 1st April 2026 and 1st March 2027.	Update project brief templates to include mandatory sustainability sections. Create a Sustainable Project Brief Checklist. Capital Development team to provide simple guidance to other departments on sustainability potential appropriate to nature of project at Brief/Inception stage. % of capital projects with sustainability criteria included from checklist in the project brief between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027 (target: 50%).
Energy & Buildings	Capital Development	New council buildings to be designed to incorporate climate resilience and flood proofing measures in risk locations.	2 projects screened for sustainability.	Ensure relevant legislative sustainable principles are integrated into 100% of all new/refurbishment projects at the Detailed Design/specification	% of new/refurbishment projects demonstrating relevant legislative compliance (Target: 100%).

				Stage by 31 March 2027.	
Energy & Buildings	Environmental Health	Raise awareness of energy efficiency measures and other support to tackle fuel poverty in the borough.	62 energy efficiency calls. 21 referrals to NIHE energy advice line. 9 referrals to energy efficacy grants. Launch of Love Well local booklet launch with contact details for agencies to assist with energy efficiency. Energy Superhero booklet delivered to 8 schools.	By March 2029, deliver an annual programme of energy efficiency awareness raising campaigns highlighting best practice to tackle fuel poverty and to highlight referral pathways for grants for domestic property upgrades, engaging at least 1,000 residents each year through social media, leaflets and targeted campaigns and awareness raising sessions.	Number of energy efficiency campaigns delivered annually (broken down into type of campaign and engagement). Number of residents engaged.
Energy & Buildings	Environmental Health	Raise awareness of energy efficiency measures and other support to tackle fuel poverty in the borough.	62 energy efficiency calls. 21 referrals to NIHE energy advice line. 9 referrals to energy efficacy grants.	Raise awareness with landlords regarding new legal requirements for housing fitness and energy efficiency in the private rented housing stock. Raise awareness with tenants renting	Deliver 1 x workshop for landlords and rental agents regarding energy efficiency and housing standards. Deliver 1 x workshop for private rented sector tenants. Inspect private rented properties to ensure compliance with new requirements, as they appear.

			Launch of Love Well local booklet launch with contact details for agencies to assist with energy efficiency. Energy Superhero booklet delivered to 8 schools.	within the private rented sector regarding energy efficiency and housing standards.	Proactively provide advice and guidance to private rental tenants regarding minimum standards for energy efficiency, managing heat loss, dampness etc.
Transport	Environmental Health	Air quality – monitor and review air quality in accordance with the NI Air Quality Strategy.	Annual average 30.78µg/ m3	Carry out continuous monitoring and assessment of Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate levels and produce an annual Air Quality Review and Assessment.	Percentage reduction in air pollutants. Percentage reduction in enforcement action. Number of air quality exceedances recorded.
Transport	Environmental Health	Air quality – monitor and review air quality in accordance with the NI Air Quality Strategy.	Annual average 30.78µg/ m3	Monitor compliance with existing declared Smoke Control areas. Respond to complaints alleging dark smoke, illegal burning of unauthorised fuels/breach of designated smoke control areas.	Number or proactive Smokey Chimney Patrols completed. Number of complaints received and investigated.
Transport	Environmental Health	Air quality – monitor and review air quality	Annual average 30.78µg/ m3	Vehicle Emissions Roadshows	To deliver 1 x Vehicle Emissions roadshow per year, in

		in accordance with the NI Air Quality Strategy.		delivered in partnership, to help target air quality from road traffic, and raise awareness. Supporting information provided regarding responsible car ownership, highlighting vehicle pollution issues, eco driving and alternatives to car use.	conjunction with the local Road Safety Partnership. Number of vehicles tested and number of people provided with information on reducing the impact from road traffic.
Transport	Environmental Health	Air quality – monitor and review air quality in accordance with the NI Air Quality Strategy.	Annual average 30.78µg/ m3	To regulate, inspect and permit Part C* industrial processes, to minimise, capture or abate airborne emissions. To investigate complaints of emissions to air from Industrial processes. *Part C processes include: Dry Cleaners using Volatile Organic Compounds. Petrol vapour released during fuel	Number of inspections carried out Number of new Permits applications considered. Number of new Permits issued. Number of complaints received and investigated.

				delivery, storage and dispensing. Vehicle respraying/refinishing Concrete crushing and screening Timber processing	
Economy	Environmental Health	Work with sustainable food places partnerships to develop initiatives which enable more local food growing and community owned food partnerships by 2029.	Became a member of ANCFN. 8 Meet & Eat Community food Initiative Sessions delivered across the Borough. 16 education sessions delivered across the Borough with a focus on healthy eating, budgeting, food safety, eating locally in season and waste reduction, empower residents to grow and manage food sustainably.	By March 2029, work with local food organisations to establish an Antrim and Newtownabbey Food Partnership and hold at least one event per year from 2026 on to support the development of this partnership. Increase awareness and education around sustainable food and food growing by engaging with at least 300 residents each year through social media, website information, events and other targeted campaigns. ork in partnership with Council	Development of a council food partnership – No. of meetings held. Number of participants involved. Percentage increase in participation.

				departments such as Parks, Community Planning, Community development and statutory and community organisations to establish or support at least 5 new food-growing initiatives by March 2029.	
Economy	Environmental Health	Work with sustainable food places partnerships to develop initiatives which enable more local food growing and community owned food partnerships by 2029.	Became a member of ANCFN. 8 Meet & Eat Community food Initiative Sessions delivered across the Borough. 16 education sessions delivered across the Borough with a focus on healthy eating, budgeting, food safety, eating locally in season and waste reduction, empower residents to grow	By March 2029, support the existing community fridges operating in the borough by holding two community fridge networking events per year. Aim to increase the number of community fridges operating across the Borough by 35% from the 2025 baseline each year. Develop mechanisms to support redistribution of surplus food through the Community Fridges Network working	Number of community fridges operating. Tonnes of food redistributed annually. Number of residents accessing community fridges. Development of a surplus food redistribution toolkit for community fridges in ANBC.

			and manage food sustainably.	with Fareshare, Henderson's and other local food outlets including community gardens and allotment sites and the community fridges themselves.	
Economy	Environmental Health	Work with sustainable food places partnerships to develop initiatives which enable more local food growing and community owned food partnerships by 2029.	Became a member of ANCFN. 8 Meet & Eat Community food Initiative Sessions delivered across the Borough. 16 education sessions delivered across the Borough with a focus on healthy eating, budgeting, food safety, eating locally in season and waste reduction, empower residents to grow and manage food sustainably.	Deliver a minimum of 20 food sustainability, healthy eating and food waste reduction courses annually between 2026 and 2029, reaching at least 200 participants each year. In Partnership with other Council departments and statutory and community organisations, deliver an ongoing education and awareness programme around reducing food waste and growing your own food through social media, website and events.	Number of courses delivered. Number of participants. Participant satisfaction levels. Percentage reporting increased awareness and understanding and behaviour change following training. Number of education and awareness programme initiatives delivered annually including the number engaged. Number of new initiatives established. Number of beneficiaries supported.

				By March 2029, maintain support for existing community food initiatives and facilitate the establishment of at least 2 additional food projects focused on food local food resilience.	
Governance	Environmental Health	From 2025, Council will create a climate impact system to create a baseline of financial impacts on council business operations from severe weather events.	New Action.	To administer the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) scheme for properties impacted by flooding through inspection of properties and assessment of eligibility. To ensure that financial assistance is paid to residents impacted by the effects of flooding in a timely manner. To offer advice on flood protection measures.	Number of requests for assistance received. Number of residential properties inspected and assessed. Number of grants processed and paid.
Energy & Buildings	Estates	Reduce heating consumption in line with industry standards for	All buildings were reviewed.	Reduce total heating consumption across council buildings by	Review of heating consumption across all buildings. No. of measures introduced to

		type/age of the building.	37 actions were implemented. 14% reduction in Co2 from 24/25 to 25/26.	5% by 31st March 2027.	reduce heating consumption. 5% decrease in carbon emissions from heating across Council as a whole.
Energy & Buildings	Estates	Reduce electricity consumption in line with industry standards for type/age of the building.	All buildings were reviewed. 9 actions were implemented. Electrical supply contract is now from a green energy supplier so 100% reduction in Co2 from electrical fuel source.	Reduce total heating consumption across council buildings by 5% by 31st March 2027.	Review of electricity consumption across all buildings. No. of measures introduced to reduce electricity consumption. 5% decrease in carbon emissions from electricity across Council as a whole.
Energy & Buildings	Estates	Identify buildings with poor DEC ratings and propose recommendations for efficiency.	0 total number of actions implemented. 0 number of buildings that have improved rating.	Improve the energy rating of 5 buildings from E to D by 31st March 2027. Replacement ventilation systems at ACC, Forum and Crumlin will be completed by September 2026 which will improve the energy efficiency of these sites.	No. of buildings identified as having poor DEC ratings. No. of actions identified to improve rating.

Energy & Buildings	Estates	Assessment of all Council sites to assess for potential alternative energy generation sources.	20 total number of buildings assessed.	Assess 10 sites for potential alternative energy generation by 31st March 2027.	Outcome report for assessments. No. of changes to energy sources at each assessed site.
Energy & Buildings	Estates	LED light fittings installed across all Council sites, where economically viable.	250 total number of additional LED lights installed. 15% KWH reduction in electricity used at these sites.	Install LED lights in 10 large buildings by 31st March 2027.	No. of buildings with LED lights installed. 5% decrease in energy use.
Energy & Buildings	Estates	Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and encourage renewable sources of energy supply.	Total number of new or repowered wind turbines for 2025/2026 was zero. Target to reflect the first step in this - feasibility study.	Feasibility study at ESD by 31st March 2027.	No. and location of new or repowered wind turbines.
Resource Management	Estates	Reduce water consumption across all Council sites.	63,816 m3 of total water consumption for 2025/2026, which is a 20% decrease in comparison to the previous year.	Reduce total water consumption across council buildings by 5% by 31st March 2027.	5% decrease in m3 used across Council as a whole.
Transport	Estates	Improve the EV ChargePoint infrastructure across Council estate.	9 replacement chargeable charge points installed across Borough.	ORCS charge points to be installed. Replace previous ESB chargers with 9 new chargers by 31st March 2027.	No. of EV charging points installed.

			8 new EV charging points installed at ESD.		
Transport	Fleet	Switch light commercial vehicles (LCV) to electric vehicles as per planned rollout.	8 vehicles powered by electric in 2025/2026, which represents 10% of the total council fleet and 42% of light goods vehicles. 367.96 TCo2e generated from fleet fuel for 25/26 year.	4 additional vehicles to be added to the Council fleet by 31st March 2027. 5% reduction in carbon emissions from Council fleet in comparison to 2025/2026.	No. of LCV vehicles switched to electric. % reductions in carbon emissions from Council fleet.
Transport	Fleet	Switch heavy goods vehicles (HGV) to HVO fuel as per planned rollout.	43 HGV vehicles fuelled by HVO in 2025/2026. 367.96 TCo2e generated from fleet fuel for 25/26 year.	5% reduction in carbon emissions from Council fleet in comparison to 2025/2026.	No. of HGV vehicles switched to HVO. % reductions in carbon emissions from Council fleet.
Economy	Economic Development	Build low carbon and sustainability criteria into all relevant grant programmes.	209 shopfront improvement grants provided to date in 2025/2026 all of which contain recommendations in relation to sustainability issues including materials, paints,	By 31 March 2027, provide at least 50 grant funding awards incorporating low-carbon and sustainability criteria, ensuring all funded projects demonstrate measurable	No. of grants provided to encourage low carbon and sustainable elements.

			recycled materials and waste products. Funding stream that funded the majority of these has come to an end - it is anticipated that there will be fewer grants provided in 26/27.	contributions to environmental sustainability.	
Economy	Economic Development	Ensure town centre regeneration contributes to climate action by reducing emissions, investing in low carbon transport and creating more greenspaces using sustainable materials where possible.	7 new public realm projects approved through Council in June 2025 which are focused on town centre greening.	By 31 March 2027, progress 2 regeneration projects, ensuring each project includes measures to reduce emissions, promote low-carbon transport, enhance green spaces and utilise sustainable materials.	No. of projects delivered in partnership with Council, DfC and Dfl.
Economy	Economic Development	Support the business community to adopt energy efficiency practices and progress towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.	Mentoring provided through the Green for Business Programme, the ASK Mentoring Programme and Go Succeed.	By 31 March 2027, support at least 40 businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures and progress towards net-zero carbon emissions by delivering targeted education sessions.	No. of business mentoring/information/education sessions delivered.
Economy	Economic Development	Encourage people within the Borough to	Embrace your town campaign	Deliver 1 social media campaign to	% engagement including clicks, shares, likes and comments per

		shop locally to limit emissions caused by transport.	commenced during Christmas period and further promotional activity took place in Q3. Embrace Your Town Campaign Reached 170,260 residents with 848,547 impressions, 392 post reactions and 10 comments.	encourage people within the Borough to shop locally to limit emissions caused by transport by 31st March 2027.	post. No. of local businesses featured/promoted
Governance	Health & Safety	Provide prompt assessment of impacts from weather events and provide information on potential protection measures to the residents	30 weather alerts communicated by Council to residents for 2025/2026. 56 updates on social media.	Follow ANBC severe weather procedure for 100% of severe weather events that occur between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027. Increase reach of severe weather warnings posts to residents between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027.	No. of alerts posted informing residents of weather warnings. No. of promotional messages issued. No./% of interactions with Communications including clicks, shares, likes and comments per post/issue.
Governance	Health & Safety	Work with multi-agency partners to increase capacity to respond to severe weather events and	4 multi agency working groups attended in response to severe weather events.	Work with multi-agency partners for 100% of named storms between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027.	No. of engagements with multi-agency partners working together during severe weather events.

		to increase community resilience			
Governance	Health & Safety/Community Planning	Support communities to build local resilience through the creation of community-led resilience hubs including the ability to respond to climate change risks.	In development during 2025/2026.	Attend at least 90% of RCRG meetings in 2026/27 and review 100% of recommendations.	% attendance at meetings (Target 90%). Review 100% of recommendations. Potentially produce a Council specific action plan for implementation in 2027/2028.
Land Use	Parks	Expand sustainable planting initiatives across the Borough.	10% increase in sustainable planting across these sites.	Increase sustainable planting across the Council estate by 10% by 31 March 2027, measured against 2025/26 data.	Number of perennial plants procured. 10% reduction in hanging baskets. 10% reduction in bedding plants. Encourage private landowners to plant native trees on their land.
Transport	Parks	Work in partnership with DfI to explore funding opportunities to extend current greenways.	No progress made during this financial year - delays from DfI.	By 31 March 2027, complete the construction of a 400m extension to the active travel path at Valley Park, with progress tracked through project delivery milestones and completion certification.	m of new Greenway (Target 400m).
Transport	Parks	Promote active travel in the Borough, encouraging cycling,	No progress made during this	Deliver 1 social media campaign to promote active	No. of promotional campaigns (Target: 1).

		walking and running as an alternative to travel by car.	financial year - delays from DFI.	travel across the Borough by 31st March 2027.	% engagement including clicks, shares, likes and comments per post.
Land Use	Parks	Ensure the Council estate is more climate ready through enhancing green spaces, urban greening and adaptable planting regimes.	8.8% reduction in the purchase of summer bedding plants. 33 Green Flag sites achieved. 10% increase in sustainable bedding.	By 31 March 2027, increase Green Flag participation by submitting one additional council application (target: 34 total awards) and delivering two workshops to support community groups in developing their own applications.	Total Number of Green Flag Award sites (Target: 34). No. of workshops delivered to support community Green Flag applications (Target: 2).
Land Use	Parks	Maximise the habitat potential of Council-owned spaces.	All areas now mapped, we have created 19.3% of meadow managed areas across our parklands.	Complete ecological surveys at Rathfern and Rea's Wood by 31 March 2027 and produce recommendations for biodiversity improvement.	No. of ecological surveys completed at priority sites (Target: 2).
Land Use	Parks	Provide opportunities for outdoor activities and access to nature and promote the health benefits of this.	14 sessions delivered during the 2025/2026 financial year.	By 31 March 2027, deliver at least 30 events that provide opportunities for outdoor activity and access to nature, promoting the health benefits of both, with attendance recorded.	No. of events delivered (Target: 30). % of events that include messaging on health and wellbeing benefits (Target 100%). Total attendance across all events.

Land Use	Parks	Provide opportunities for outdoor activities and access to nature and promote the health benefits of this.	New Action.	Start the 'We Can Grow' pilot project with 50 households across the Borough by 31 March 2027.	No. of facilitators recruited. No. of households recruited and actively participating (target: 50). Level of engagement (e.g. workshops attended, no. of kits distributed).
Energy & Buildings	Planning	Any capital development proposals within an area identified at risk of flooding will be accompanied by a robust Flood Risk Assessment.	No capital development projects were proposed in areas at risk of flooding.	T1: Monitor the number of Council capital development proposals permitted in identified Flood Risk Areas between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027.	No. of Council capital development proposals permitted in identified Flood Risk Areas.
Land Use	Planning	Increased use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) as the preferred method of treating surface water for all new capital development proposals.	Reporting mechanism under development.	T1: By 31st March 2027, develop a reporting system to capture the number of full planning permissions granted that include SuDs.	No. of full planning permissions granted which include SuDs.
Land Use	Planning	To ensure the Local Development Plan encourages the provision of public open spaces in new developments.	8 major residential development proposals in 2025/2026 included provision for public open spaces.	T1: Monitor the number of residential development proposals that make provision for public open space between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027.	No. of residential development proposals of 25 or more, or on sites of 1 hectare or more, that provide public open space provision.

Land Use	Planning	Any residential development proposals within an area identified at risk of flooding will be accompanied by a robust Flood Risk Assessment.	No residential development projects were proposed in areas at risk of flooding.	T1: Monitor the number of residential development proposals permitted in identified Flood Risk Areas between 1st April 2026 and 31st March 2027.	No. of residential development proposals permitted in identified Flood risk Areas.
Energy & Buildings	Planning	Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and encourage renewable sources of energy supply.	Complete annual data not available until October 2026.	To ensure power is derived from a diverse range of renewable energy technologies.	No. of renewable energy applications received. No Renewable Energy Applications decided. Renewable Energy Application approval rate.
Governance	Procurement	Include environmental and social value weightings in procurement policy.	26 contracts awarded with social value in place during the 2025/2026 financial year.	T1: 100% of contracts above threshold will have social value incorporated. T2: New procurement policy to be in place by 31st March 2027 that includes sustainable procurement.	Proportion of contracts above the procurement threshold that include social value criteria (Target: 100%) Adoption of a revised procurement policy that incorporates procurement principles
Governance	Procurement/Waste & Sustainability	Investigate best practice to measure emissions from Council's supply chain.	Emissions calculated for 2024/2025 year for Scope 3 Emissions arising from Business Travel,	T1: Carbon emissions for employee commuting, Fuel and Energy Related activities and top 5 contracts to be calculated for	Completion of carbon emissions calculations for key Scope 3 categories. Calculations aligned with recognised methodology (GHG protocol) and uses relevant

			Water and Waste from Operations.	2024/2025 and 2025/2026 by 31st March 2027. T2: Carbon emissions for Business Travel, Water and Waste from Operations to be calculated for 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 by 31st March 2027.	DESNZ carbon emissions factors, as per DAERA reporting portal.
Governance	Funding Unit	Increase the number of funding opportunities for environmentally sustainable projects for the Community/Voluntary Sector and Businesses.	Horticultural Grant Call: 19 organisations applied and £25,069 was distributed to groups. 2 groups supported to make applications to external funds. 10 opportunities shared across social media channels.	T1: Provide £30,000 to organisations through the Horticultural Grant by 31st March 2027. T2: Provide 4 external funding support workshops across the Borough by 31st March 2027. T3: Share 10 posts by 31st March 2027 to advertise environmental grant funding opportunities.	Total value of funding distributed through the Horticultural Grant scheme (Target: £30,000). No. of external funding support workshops delivered across the Borough (Target: 4). % engagement including clicks, shares, likes and comments per post.
Resource Management	Organisational Development	Provide Carbon Awareness training to all Council staff.	66% of staff have completed the Environmental Sustainability module.	70% of staff will have completed the Environmental Sustainability module by 31st March 2027.	Proportion of staff who have completed the Environmental Sustainability training module (Target: 70%).

Resource Management †	Organisational Development	Provide EMS/Sustainability training to all Council staff.	65% of staff have completed the Environmental Awareness at work module.	70% of staff will have completed the Environmental Awareness at Work module by 31st March 2027.	Proportion of staff who have completed the Environmental Awareness at Work training module (Target: 70%).
Resource Management †	Organisational Development	Provide accredited Carbon Literacy training to Elected Members and key members of staff.	None in 2025/2026.	10% of elected members will have completed accredited Carbon Literacy training by 30th June 2026. Accredited Carbon Literacy training to be completed by 20 members of staff by 31st March 2027.	Proportion of elected members completing accredited Carbon Literacy training. No. of staff completing accredited Carbon Literacy training.
Resource Management †	Waste & Sustainability	Reduce consumption of single use plastics (SUP) within Council and across the Borough.	0 education events delivered 0 policies reviewed	T1: Achieve 5% reduction in SUPs ordered between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027, compared to the 2025/26 baseline, with progress tracked through procurement records. T2: Deliver three campaigns on reducing and recycling single-use plastics by 31 July 2026.	% education in SUPs procured by Council. No. of environmental education campaigns delivered. % engagement including clicks, shares, likes and comments per post.

Resource Management †	Waste & Sustainability	Reduce consumption of paper within Council.	Reduction of 434,450 sheets of paper in comparison to same period for 2024/2025. Reduction of approx. 13.4T Co2e in comparison to the same period for 2024/2025. This is 30% less paper than the previous year.	Achieve a 10% reduction in paper ordered between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027, compared to the 2025/26 baseline, with progress tracked through procurement records.	% reduction in paper ordered.
Resource Management †	Waste & Sustainability	Initiate and promote schemes which focus on material re-use and repair across the Borough	4 separate reuse initiatives ran throughout the 2025/2026 year. 4 posts in total promoting Repair Cafe. 227.10T waste diverted from landfill through reuse during the 2025/2026 financial year (This figure does not include the tonnage rejected to recycling).	T1: By 31 March 2027, introduce a paint reuse scheme at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), with implementation evidenced through operational rollout and recorded reuse activity. T2: Between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027, publish at least 10 social media posts promoting reuse initiatives, with delivery tracked	Implementation of a paint reuse scheme at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). No. of environmental education campaigns delivered. % engagement including clicks, shares, likes and comments per post. Percentage increase in reuse tonnage.

				through communications logs. T3: Achieve a 10% increase in reuse tonnage between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027, compared to the 2025/26 baseline, with progress measured through waste and reuse data records.	
Resource Management	Waste & Sustainability	Engage with schools and community groups to increase knowledge and support the waste hierarchy and circular economy.	92 education session delivered to schools and community groups by Arc 21 officer. 25 information sessions delivered by ANBC staff. 15 education sessions delivered by Bryson staff. 132 education sessions delivered in total for 2025/2026.	T1: Achieve a 10% increase in the number of education sessions delivered by ARC21 between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027, compared to 2025/26 data, with delivery tracked through programme records. T2: By 30 June 2026, ensure that at least 56% of schools in the Borough have achieved Green Flag status, as verified through official Eco-Schools programme records.	% increase in education sessions delivered by Arc 21. Proportion of schools in the Borough with Green lag status.

Resource Management †	Waste & Sustainability	Harmonise household waste and recycling collection models across the Borough to make recycling easier for our residents.	7347.81T of dry recycling collected from domestic properties during 2025/2026 financial year. Verified dry recycling only rate for 2025/2026 for households - not available until November 2026.	By 31 March 2027, increase domestic dry recycling tonnage by 5% compared to 2025/26 tonnages, with performance tracked through council waste data and verified reporting systems.	% increase in domestic dry recycling tonnage.
Resource Management †	Waste & Sustainability	Meet 60% recycling target of municipal waste by 2030 within the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020.	Verified data for 2025/2206 from DAERA annual report not due until November 2026.	By 31 March 2027, achieve a 1% increase in the municipal recycling rate relative to 2025/26 levels, with performance tracked through official waste data and statutory reporting returns.	% increase in municipal recycling rate.
Transport	Waste Operations	Review route optimisation for service delivery to reduce carbon emissions	In development.	By March 2027, review and optimise all Street Cleansing vehicle service routes using route-planning tools, GIS mapping and operational data to reduce total fleet mileage and	% of Street Cleansing routes reviewed. % of routes optimised using GIS/route-planning tools. No. of route redesigns completed.

				associated carbon emissions.	
Transport	Waste& Sustainability	Reduce grey fleet travel through encouraging virtual meetings and effective journey management.	76.72 TC02e generated from business miles for 25/26. 10% reduction in carbon emissions from staff business miles in comparison to previous year.	By 31 March 2027, achieve a 5% reduction in carbon emissions from staff business travel relative to 2025/26 levels, with progress measured through recorded mileage data and standard emissions conversion factors.	% reduction in carbon emissions from staff business travel.
Land Use	Waste& Sustainability	Ensure our environmental management system remains relevant, effective and aligned with ISO14001:2015 standards.	12 internal audits completed in 2025/2026. 16 actions completed across the organisation to ensure conformity with the standard.	By 31 December 2026, successfully achieve ISO 14001 re-certification, with compliance demonstrated through completion of the external audit and receipt of formal certification.	Internal audit completion. No. of non-conformities identified and resolved. Achievement of ISO 14001 re-certification.
Governance	Waste& Sustainability	Ensure that climate change risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management process.	Annual review of Risk Register has taken place.	Between 1 January 2027 and 31 March 2027, complete a full review and update of the risk register, with all risks assessed and updated to reflect current priorities and controls.	Completion of annual risk register review and update.