

Bracknell Forest Council Climate Change Strategy

Delivery Plan for Phase 1

The first phase of the climate change strategy will be delivered over the course of the 2025/26 financial year and will see progress on existing projects and quick wins as well as enabling work for future phases of the strategy.

Section 1: Spending summary for FY 2025/26

FY 2025/26 seeks a revenue investment of £250k in climate change activities and proposed capital investment of £1m in our estate to reduce emissions and support climate adaptation. The items below are current proposals for consideration within 2025/26 budgets.

Revenue budget items	Amount
Climate change team expansion	
This funding will be used to increase capacity in the climate change team to enable action delivery and lay the groundwork for future phases of activity. This is currently estimated as 2 x FTE plus a FT apprentice.	£140k
Climate change team revenue budget	
This funding will be used to support ongoing tasks within the climate change team, including comms and marketing and specialist and technical support.	£50k
Climate change projects budget	
This funding will be used to support projects across the council to tackle climate change. The funding will be allocated during the year based on further research and progress in different areas. Section 2 below shows projects this funding could be allocated to.	£60k
Total Revenue Spend	£250k

Capital budget items	Amount
Comprehensive retrofit – first year of rolling three-year programme	
This funding will enable the full decarbonisation of four buildings in the estate, including fabric improvements, electrification of heating and installation of solar panels.	£445k
One-off capital spend	Amount
Boiler and pump replacement	
Replacing outdated boilers and pumps will reduce gas and electricity use.	£200k
Ceiling insulation	
Installing an insulated suspended ceiling in one of our properties will improve thermal performance.	£50k
Flood prevention and drainage works	
Measures to reduce the risk of flooding, supporting climate adaptation.	£65k
Door and window replacements and ventilation improvements	
Replacements and improvements of doors, windows and ventilation will improve the thermal performance of targeted buildings.	£245k
Total one-off capital spend	£560k
Total capital spend:	£1.005m

Section 2: Indicative action plan for Phase 1

We will look to deliver the following projects in FY 2025/26 to complete phase 1. This will be supported by the expansion of the climate change team and the revenue and projects budgets.

Funding and resource constraints mean that it will not be possible to deliver all projects, but delivery of a broad cross-section will be sufficient to lay the groundwork for phase 2 from FY 2026/27. Items marked + are seen as high priorities for development during the first year. The remaining actions represent a selection of ideas to fund from the proposed £60k projects budget. The projects total to more than £60k so some prioritisation will be necessary. A finalised action plan will be created before the start of FY 2025/26 and updated throughout the year.

Please see below for an explanation of the information provided, which will be taken into account in prioritising projects.

Column	Notes
Cost	The estimated additional revenue cost of the action/project, to be drawn from the team revenue or climate project budget if selected. These costs are indicative only and in some cases there is room to scale them up or down. Capital funding and revenue funding already committed are not included ; further capital funding is unlikely in FY 2025/26 so new projects requiring capital funding will take place in phase 2, following creation of a business case in phase 1.
GHG saving	An indicator of the magnitude of the expected reduction in greenhouse gas emissions released, as compared to the relevant emissions footprint. For enabling actions, there may be no direct saving.
Complexity	An indicator of the level of difficulty and/or officer time and attention expected to be needed to implement the action.
Co-benefits	Most significant benefits expected to be realised from the action, other than emissions reductions.
Type	Actions in Phase 1 fall into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enabler – unlocks further progress in future phases• Pilot – tests an intervention to explore potential for wider roll-out• Quick win – reduces emissions quickly and simply• Delivery – forms part of an ongoing programme of work
Each section also includes a table for “ongoing business-as-usual work”, which covers activities that are embedded into the day-to-day operations of different teams but remain important to achieving the objective.	

Aim 1 – Council Emissions

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Building emissions					
Deliver £1m investment in corporate estate energy efficiency†	N/A	High	High	Financial saving	Delivery
Create a fully costed plan for estate decarbonisation and adaptation†	£30k	N/A	High	N/A	Enabler
Conduct a health check on the Time Square BMS	£20k	Low	Low	Financial saving	Quick win
Run a behaviour change campaign on reducing emissions at work and at home, and explore potential to expand recycling options at our sites	0	Medium	Medium	Financial saving Staff finances	Quick win
Vehicle and staff travel emissions					
Prepare for decarbonisation of remaining council fleet and tools, and installation of required infrastructure at the depot†	0	N/A	High	Air quality	Enabler
Introduce a procurement framework to ensure that contracted transport operators (e.g. for home to school transport) move to EVs†	0	High	Medium	Air quality	Delivery
Create a new staff travel plan to encourage sustainable travel†	0	High	Medium	Health	Enabler
Introduce EV leasing or purchase salary sacrifice scheme for staff†	0	High	Medium	Financial saving	Delivery
Rollout HVO (biofuel) for further waste & ranger vehicles from Q3	£30k+	High	Low	Financial saving	Quick win
Review ways to change business travel practices to reduce emissions	0	Low	Medium	Financial saving	Quick win
Offer Dr Bike & cycle training sessions for staff	£2k	Low	Low	Health	Quick win
Lease five pool e-bikes	£10k	Low	Low	Health	Pilot
Lease two new pool EVs to trial expansion of pool car use eligibility	£5k	Low	Low	Air quality	Pilot
Offer staff a free bus travel to work taster day	£2k	Low	Low	Air quality	Quick win
Support staff lift-sharing and travel planning	£15k	Medium	Medium	Staff finances	Quick win
Lower or avoid raising staff parking charges for EVs	£4k	Low	Low	Staff finances	Quick win
Change travel expenses policy to encourage rail travel	0	Low	Low	N/A	Quick win
Review options to expand use of Eco Rewards scheme by staff	0	Low	Low	Staff finances	Quick win
Procurement emissions					
Introduce climate change procurement guidance for staff †	0	High	High	N/A	Enabler
Develop joint carbon reduction plans with selected key contractors	0	Medium	Medium	N/A	Pilot
Introduce food standard for council events focused on green vegetarian/vegan food	0	Low	Low	Health	Quick win
Review purchase and disposal procedures to implement circular economy principles and identify reduction and re-use opportunities	0	Medium	Medium	Financial saving	Quick win

Aim 2 – Borough Emissions

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Develop a detailed decarbonisation pathway for the borough and a local area energy plan (potentially as part of cross-Berkshire work) [†]	0	N/A	High	N/A	Enabler
Buildings and energy supply					
Work with private sector on collective energy switching and group buying schemes for PV, and look at expanding offer e.g. to heat pumps [†]	£5k	High	Low	Financial resilience	Delivery
Open carbon offset fund for contributions from developers, local businesses and/or suppliers [†]	0	Medium	Medium	Council finances	Delivery
Procure a managing agent to deliver ECO4/GBIS retrofit funding	0	Medium	Low	Resilience	Delivery
Trial an area-based retrofit approach for a block of houses	£10k	Low	High	Resilience	Pilot
Trial or support a one-stop shop to advise residents and local organisations on retrofit measures and funding sources	£10k	High	Medium	Financial resilience	Pilot
Create a retrofit partnership bringing together providers, installers and education providers	0	N/A	Medium	Local economy	Enabler
Continue to develop business case and plans for new solar farm and EV charging at the London Road landfill site	N/A	Medium	High	Council finances	Delivery
Develop an investment proposal for large-scale solar investment on town centre and business area roofs, and community batteries	0	N/A	High	Council finances	Enabler
Identify further local renewable energy investment possibilities for the council or private entities	0	N/A	High	Council finances	Enabler
Create a support offer for community energy schemes	£5k	High	Medium	Resilience	Pilot
Develop a Bracknell Forest Climate Change Building Standard to provide best practice, and integrate this into planning guidance	0	High	High	Financial resilience	Delivery
Transport					
Deliver EV chargepoint expansion using funding from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund [†]	0	High	High	Financial resilience	Delivery
Review taxi licensing policy to identify ways to support a switch to EVs [†]	0	Low	Medium	Air quality	Quick win
Work with Community Safety team to develop a plan for ensuring the safety of people walking and cycling in the borough	0	N/A	Medium	Community safety	Enabler
Extend the Love to Ride cycle incentive scheme	£25k	Low	Low	Health	Delivery
Trial a school street at a Bracknell Forest school	£10k	Low	Medium	Health	Pilot
Conduct events and comms campaign to support EV uptake	£4k	Low	Low	N/A	Quick win

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Trial an EV car club for residents	£25k	Low	Medium	N/A	Pilot
Lease two cargo bikes for trial use by local businesses	£10k	Low	Low	Local economy	Pilot
Introduce three cycle counters to monitor numbers in real time	£12k	N/A	Low	N/A	Enabler
Run engagement events on safer street improvements	£10k	N/A	Medium	N/A	Enabler
Run a free summer/holiday period bus taster weekend	£12k	Low	Low	Air quality	Quick win
Investigate options to improve existing walking and cycling infrastructure	0	Medium	High	Health	Enabler
Engage Mode Shift STARS to offer travel planning support to local organisations	£5k	Low	Low	Health	Quick win
Trial WOW – the walk to school challenge – at selected schools	£2.5k	Low	Low	Health	Pilot
Offer Eco STARS scheme to support fleet operators to reduce emissions	£10k	Low	Low	Air quality	Quick win
Review opportunities to integrate Eco Rewards scheme into activities	0	Low	Low	Health	Quick win
Expand cycling training and support for residents	£5k	Low	Low	Health	Quick win
Review ways to improve the MyJourney platform	0	Low	Medium	N/A	Quick win
Land & waste					
Consider expansion of kerbside recycling collection e.g. for flexible plastics or glass based on Flex Collect trial and changes to guidelines†	0	N/A	High	Waste & recycling	Delivery
Support extra tree planting on council and/or private land	£10k	Low	Low	Biodiversity	Quick win
Support initiatives to develop local habitats and green corridors	0	Low	Medium	Biodiversity	Delivery

Ongoing business-as-usual work					
Support vulnerable and low income residents to access retrofit funding through wider schemes† e.g. Warm Homes Local Grant					
Deliver active travel engagement activities, such as Dr Bike and cycling events, Bikeability training and Eco Rewards					
Deliver further EV chargepoints by collaborating with the private sector and advising and supporting other landowners					
Provide resources to schools to teach pupils about air quality, and conduct idling advice and enforcement activity outside schools					
Monitor and maintain habitats, and expand and improve those that sequester carbon or mitigate the effects of climate change					
Conduct an annual tree planting programme to increase tree cover					

Aim 3 – Supporting wider action

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Create a communications and engagement plan to guide engagement activities and understand the views and needs of residents and communities across the borough, and a just transition plan	0	N/A	High	N/A	Enabler
Conduct targeted outreach activities aimed at different areas and groups, especially those facing disadvantage or marginalisation, and those sceptical of climate change or the need for action	£2k	Low	Low	Equity & inclusion	Delivery
Use Making Every Contact Count (MECC) approaches to provide advice and support for residents to reduce costs and emissions	£7.5k	Low	Medium	Health; financial resilience	Pilot
Work with teams and businesses to ensure that sustainable options for council services and in retail are available and easy to access	0	Medium	Medium	Economy	Enabler
Investigate introducing 'journey days' for BFC employees choosing sustainable travel options	0	High	Medium	Staff retention	Pilot
Launch a Residents' Panel to engage and co-produce climate action with residents	£25k	N/A	High	N/A	Pilot
Expand comms and engagement on mitigation and adaptation e.g. social media comms and attendance at events around the borough	£2k	High	Low	Financial resilience	Delivery
Support climate volunteering in the borough with expenses and training, and launch climate champions volunteering scheme for residents	£5k	N/A	Low	N/A	Delivery
Create a community partners scheme for ongoing engagement with charitable and voluntary organisations, including advice and toolkits	£2k	N/A	Low	Equity & inclusion	Delivery
Offer climate micro-grants to community organisations	£10k	Medium	Medium	N/A	Pilot
Support Bracknell Forest Community Climate Action (BFCCA) with projects and engagement	£10k	High	Medium	N/A	Delivery
Develop or support development of a Bracknell Climate Curriculum for schools to adopt which integrates climate change into teaching in every school year	0	High	High	Education	Delivery

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Trial support for schools to reduce emissions and adapt e.g. energy monitoring, SuDS	£10k	Medium	Medium	Education	Pilot
Investigate potential to create or support climate hubs in the local area for resident engagement	0	N/A	Medium	Equity & inclusion	Delivery

Ongoing business-as-usual work
Continue the Little Changes, Big Impact behaviour change campaign
Regularly update climate change advice on the council website
Deliver the annual climate change summit and schools' climate conferences

Aim 4 – Climate Adaptation

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Develop a climate change risk assessment for the council, and reflect this in risk registers, procurement processes and budget pressures†	0	N/A	High	Service resilience	Enabler
Work with teams across the council and key partners to make service continuity plans to tackle identified risks and protect staff and residents	0	N/A	Medium	Service resilience	Delivery
Include climate-related risks in procurement guidance, and engage key suppliers on climate risks	0	N/A	Medium	Service resilience	Delivery
Support sustainable drainage (SuDS) trial to tackle flood risk	£20k	Low	Medium	Biodiversity	Pilot
Introduce Green Infrastructure Strategy	0	Medium	High	Biodiversity	Delivery
Conduct wider communications offering advice and support to vulnerable residents for staying safe in extreme weather	£2.5k	N/A	Medium	Health	Pilot
Engage staff on climate change, health risks and eco-anxiety	0	N/A	Low	Staff retention	Quick win

Aim 5 – Support the Green Economy

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Launch a Green Business Hub, offering a pledge scheme, support, training, guides, case studies and promotion for local organisations	£10k	Medium	High	Local economy	Delivery
Launch sector-specific partnerships for a small number of key sectors e.g. office provision, IT, food & drink, retail	0	Medium	High	Local economy	Pilot

Action	Cost	GHG saving	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Launch Bracknell Forest green apprenticeships, internships and work experience schemes, and run a green jobs fair	£2k	Low	High	Education	Delivery
Engage with local businesses and education providers to identify and fill green skills gaps	0	N/A	Medium	Education	Delivery
Explore options for sustainable joint procurement with businesses	0	N/A	High	Local economy	Enabler
Offer climate work experience to local students	0	N/A	Low	Education	Delivery

Enabling themes

Action	Cost	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Organisational capacity				
Deliver Carbon Literacy Training and other relevant training for staff and councillors	0	Low	N/A	Enabler
Encourage council teams to consider their climate training needs	0	Low	N/A	Enabler
Deliver expansion of climate change team	0	N/A	N/A	Enabler
Support the roll-out of an Integrated Assessment Tool and guidance to ensure climate change is considered in decision-making, and provide advice on its use	0	Medium	Health; Equalities	Enabler
Conduct review of internal processes to increase focus on climate change	0	Medium	N/A	Enabler
Develop guidance for staff on embedding climate action strategically and operationally	0	Medium	N/A	Enabler
Funding				
Create project pipelines for different areas to identify and develop business cases for projects which can support delivery of the strategy	0	High	N/A	Enabler
Create climate funding framework showing how suitable funding will be identified for different schemes and how funding will be prioritised	N/A	High	N/A	Enabler
Apply for Innovate UK funding to support ambitious local climate action	0	High	Council finances	Delivery
Apply for Heat Networks Delivery Unit funding for scoping of town centre heat network	0	High	Council finances	Delivery
Apply for funding for estate decarbonisation e.g. Low Carbon Skills Fund, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund	0	High	Council finances	Delivery
Identify and apply for further sources of grant funding for different activities	0	Medium	Council finances	Delivery
Seek corporate sponsorship to fund public-facing climate activity	0	Low	Council finances	Pilot
Investigate potential for a local climate bond and/or joint venture(s) with the private sector to drive investment in climate action	0	High	Council finances	Enabler
Partnerships				
Maximise use of support from regional and national organisations e.g. Net Zero Hub	0	Low	N/A	Enabler

Action	Cost	Complexity	Co-benefits	Type
Support creation of the BFCCA's Community Climate Emergency Strategy (CCES) and identify opportunities to join up council and BFCCA activities	0	High	Community engagement	Enabler
Review climate activities to identify opportunities for delivery at regional level	0	Medium	N/A	Enabler
Develop guides on how different stakeholders can assist with strategy implementation and what is needed from national government	0	High	Community engagement	Enabler
Research and data				
Measure the council's scope 3 emissions footprint and develop a detailed decarbonisation pathway for the council†	£20k	High	Financial saving	Enabler
Co-operate with universities to apply research to local climate action	£5k	Medium	Education	Pilot
Publish and promote case studies of our successes and learning points	0	Low	Reputation	Delivery
Ongoing business-as-usual work				
Support Officer Climate Network to engage and bring together council staff around climate change				
Support the Joint Climate Action Board (JCAB), which is part of BFCCA, with administration and meetings				

Section 3: Indicative action plan for Phases 2 & 3

This section lists actions which could be explored for delivery in phases 2 and 3 of the strategy. Phase 2 actions are to be explored and/or trialled in phase 1, while phase 3 actions are to be explored and/or trialled in phase 2. None of these actions have not been confirmed as council policy; their inclusion on this list means only that they will receive further consideration, and their implementation will be subject to further research, outcomes of engagement, and financial resources available in future years.

Phase 2 will also include phase 1 actions not delivered in FY 2025/26, and the expansion of schemes trialled in phase 1 that are successful.

Aim 1 – Council Emissions

Item	Phase
Construct new council and Joint Venture buildings to net zero standards wherever possible	Phase 2
Replace all smaller vehicles used by the council and contractors with EVs, and use HVO (biofuel) for all larger vehicles	Phase 2
Introduce recycling and/or lower carbon materials for road resurfacing works	Phase 2
Investigate potential to reduce carbon impact of council banking	Phase 2
Support fossil fuel divestment and climate risk assessment by the Berkshire local government pension fund	Phase 2
Agree emissions reduction plans with all major council contractors/suppliers	Phase 2
Switch to widespread use of sustainable travel and EV pool cars by staff	Phase 2
Retrofit estate with insulation and water saving fittings, decarbonise heating and install solar panels	Phases 2-3
Support or contribute to schools retrofit	Phases 2-3
Retrofit & decarbonise community centres	Phases 2-3
Decarbonise temporary accommodation	Phases 2-3
Introduce increasingly stringent climate procurement requirements	Phases 2-3
Consider replacing crematoria with electric alternative	Phase 3
Consider options for full decarbonisation of larger vehicles	Phase 3
Offset remaining emissions in 2030 by investing in local decarbonisation	End of phase 3

Aim 2 – Borough Emissions (Buildings & Energy Supply)

Item	Phase
Commission a Local Area Energy Plan with other Berkshire authorities	Phase 2
Scale up a one-stop shop for retrofit, including access to low-interest finance or grants backed by council capital funding to make retrofit affordable	Phase 2
Invest in solar farms on roofs and land around the borough and in the provision of community batteries, and assess potential for other renewable technologies such as wind, biomass and hydrogen	Phase 2
Build a district heat network for Bracknell town centre & business areas	Phase 3
Build Bracknell Forest Climate Building Standard into the Local Plan as requirement for development	Phase 3
Invest in a construction waste hub to encourage construction waste recycling	Phase 3

Aim 2 – Borough Emissions (Transport)

Item	Year
Consider an EV car club for residents	Phase 2
Consider an e-bike rental scheme	Phase 2
Create remote working space in libraries	Phase 2
Upgrade streets and paths to support walking and cycling	Phase 2
Explore opportunities for pedestrianisation around the borough	Phase 2
Explore opportunities to expand the Eco Rewards scheme	Phase 2
Seek funding to improve bus routes and infrastructure	Phase 2
Introduce school streets across the borough where appropriate	Phase 2
Plan for further EV charging infrastructure and collaborate with the private sector to drive further investment	Phase 2
Trial Demand Responsive Transport and scale up if successful	Phase 2-3
Consider transport hubs to offer sustainable travel options in one place	Phases 2-3
Run a Safer Streets programme, installing measures to make walking and cycling safer and calm or reroute traffic where appropriate	Phases 2-3
Introduce travel app to support transport schemes (Mobility as a Service), potentially on a cross-Berkshire basis	Phase 3
Consider increasing parking charges for council car parks	Phase 3
Introduce Workplace Parking Levy	Phase 3
Consider introducing resident parking permits in areas across the borough where good sustainable alternatives to car travel exist	Phase 3
Investigate feasibility of a green freight centre with consolidation and distribution hub, cargo bike pool and charging/refuelling for net zero HGVs	Phase 3
Consider introducing zero emissions zone for freight vehicles	Phase 3
Consider introducing zero emissions zone for cars in town centre	Phase 3
Introduce requirement for licensed taxis to be EVs, potentially with grant to support upgrade	Phase 3

Aim 2 – Borough Emissions (Land & waste)

Item	Phase
Run engagement programme for residents and local landowners on reducing agricultural emissions, biodiversity and tree planting	Phase 2
Plant large numbers of trees on roadsides and in parks, and create pocket parks and larger woodlands	Phase 2
Invest in Public Protection Partnership to enhance capability to enforce rental building, waste disposal and air quality standards	Phase 2
Investigate potential for local waste infrastructure e.g. an anaerobic digester	Phase 2
Include provisions to reduce waste disposal emissions in new waste contract, such as zero biodegradable waste to landfill and implementation of carbon reduction, capture and storage technologies	Phase 3

Aim 3 – Supporting wider action

Item	Phase
Promote a Bracknell Forest Catering Standard to external organisations	Phase 2
Set up a Local Food Partnership, look at development of allotment space, and encourage food growing and Community Supported Agriculture	Phase 2
Create a library of things system to lend common reusable items from Bracknell libraries, and support local repair cafes and swap/re-use schemes	Phase 2

Aim 4 – Climate Adaptation

Item	Phase
Develop a climate risk assessment for the borough, or a cross-Berkshire initiative, and plan to address identified risks	Phase 2
Promote recruitment of staff in emergency planning to work on climate risk and adaptation, and co-ordinate planning with key partners	Phase 2
Promote cool and warm hub locations around the borough	Phase 2
Update flood risk strategy	Phase 2
Review council estate and insurance policies to mitigate climate risks	Phase 2
Invest in sustainable drainage and road upgrades to protect against climate impacts across the borough	Phases 2-3

Aim 5 – Support the Green Economy

Item	Year
Develop a fixed location for the Green Business Hub with collaboration space and a makerspace and increase support e.g. to help start-ups find investment	Phase 2
Launch sector-specific decarbonisation partnerships for all key local sectors e.g. IT, office provision, retail, leisure & holidays	Phase 2
Investigate offering SMEs and charities business rates reductions for rapid progress on decarbonisation (charging a scheme fee to replace our share of lost income)	Phase 2
Offer green entrepreneurship grants to kick-start green innovation in the local economy	Phase 2
Support the advertising of green products and job opportunities, including through an online platform and events	Phase 2
Run joint procurement schemes for key products and services to enable access to sustainable options at lower cost for local organisations	Phase 2
Promote Bracknell Forest as a location for green business investment	Phase 2
Work with education providers to ensure suitable courses are available to develop skills needed by the green economy	Phase 2
Launch voluntary emissions reporting scheme for local businesses and industry, and work with those with large direct or indirect emissions to agree or inform reduction plans	Phase 2