

Climate Emergency Action Plan

2026 - 2030



Purpose of this document

This is the updated London Borough of Hounslow Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026 - 2030.

The original Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 - 2030, that was approved in July 2020, identified that a midway review would be necessary, given the challenging targets and evolving knowledge and understanding that would be developed over the first period of the Plan delivery. The review point provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the first five years of delivery and to apply lessons learned to the updated Plan for 2026 - 2030.

The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026 - 2030 reiterates our ambition in responding to the Climate Emergency. The key priority areas for action remain unchanged, with one additional priority area that is now explicit in the revised plan:

- Decarbonisation of Council operations and estate to achieve net zero by 2030
- Influence a reduction in wider borough emissions
- Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Promote sustainable lifestyles for residents and staff (new)

Key learning has been built into the updated plan associated with the council's internal net zero target. This is that tight and accurate definition of scope is required to ensure clarity on what needs to be delivered and that tracking of tCO2e emissions is fraught with challenges. Emissions will still be tracked, but reporting will focus on the number of assets that are being decarbonised.

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Review of progress against Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025



Review of Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025

The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2030, approved in July 2020, set out a challenging set of actions to be delivered across the plan period. The following pages outline the progress made in delivering these actions.

The Action Plan delivery was phased with an initial year of action, short term (2022-2025) and medium to long term (2025 - 2030) with the programme split across Council Direct Emissions and Wider Borough Emissions with distinct thematic workstreams.

Council Direct Emissions

 Energy efficiency	 Retrofit Hounslow and zero carbon new housing
 Renewable energy	 Sustainable travel promotion
 Electrifying vehicle fleet	 A transition to electric mobility
 Reducing employee transport emissions	 A greener and more resilient Hounslow
 Waste management	 Develop net zero lifestyles
 Culture change and governance	 Culture change and governance
 Sustainable investment and funding	 Stimulate a local green economy

Review of Progress Against Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets

Council Direct Emissions

The tables below set out the progress made to date on the actions that will enable the Council to achieve net zero by 2030.

KEY: Achieved In progress Superseded Not started

*now reclassified as wider borough

	Year of action 2020/21	Year two - five (short term 2021/22 - 2024/25)	Year six - ten (medium to long term 2025/26 - 2029/30)
Energy efficiency	Decarbonise all Local Authority maintained schools*		
	Support schools in declaring a climate emergency	Hounslow schools declare a climate emergency by 2020	All Hounslow schools are carbon neutral by 2030*
	Develop and adopt corporate Energy Action Plan	Implement a corporate Energy Action Plan	
	Pilot Pasivhaus design in new council social housing*	Ensure all social housing stock is minimum EPC C*	Fully decarbonise all social housing stock to minimum EPC B*
	Retrofit corporate buildings with energy conservation measures	Achieve minimum EPC C rating for all corporate properties	
		Complete all building and upgrade programmes as identified in the Housing Strategy 2019-2024*	
	Complete review of the district heat network study*	Complete feasibility and secure Green Heat Network Fund grant for District Heat Network*	
	Explore options for setting up ESCO to deliver at scale retrofit*		
Renewable energy	Utilise 100% renewable electricity by October 2020 to power the corporate estate, social housing stock and schools		
	Complete Strategic Business Case for Solar PV investment across Council Estates	Council generates 25% of its energy requirements	
	Implement schools large scale Solar PV PPA programme*		
Electrifying vehicle fleet	Utilise 100% renewable electricity across corporate estate, social housing and schools		
	Complete feasibility study on electrification of Council's vehicle fleet	Trial the use of sustainable bio fuels in the waste vehicle fleet	Roll out a zero-emission parking enforcement operation
	Trial the use of electric vehicles in delivering council services	50% of the council fleet is electric or hybrid	100% zero emission council vehicle fleet

Review of Progress Against Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets

Council Direct Emissions

The tables below set out the progress made to date on the actions that will enable the Council to achieve net zero by 2030.

KEY: Achieved In progress Superseded Not started

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	Year of action 2020/21	Year two - five (short term 2021/22 - 2024/25)	Year six - ten (medium to long term 2025/26 - 2029/30)
Culture change and governance	Reduce the use of operational permits by more polluting vehicles		
	Intensify sustainable travel promotion for all council employees	All council employees are commuting to their place of work using sustainable modes of transport	
	Increase number of electric pool cars for employee business use	All business activity to be completed by employees using electric pool cars	
	Complete feasibility to understand the emissions from school travel	All school employees are commuting to their place of work using sustainable modes of transport	
Waste management	Adopt the Waste Recycling and Reduction Plan*	Implement the Waste Recycling and Reduction Plan*	
	Implement Hounslow House waste minimisation plan	Implement waste Minimisation Plan across all corporate buildings	
	Review the provision of waste management facilities for flats*	Achieve a 5 per cent reduction in residual waste from flats*	
	Implement initiatives to increase food waste capture*	Refresh and redesign the provision for street bring sites*	
	Review provision of street litter bins*		
	Increase recycling rates in schools*		
	Implement new bulky waste collection policy*		
	Review options for a commercial waste collection service*	Redesign and implement upgrades to Spacewaye Recycling centre*	Implement the updated Reduction and Recycling Plan 2026-2030*
Culture change and governance	Embed CEAP in One Hounslow Delivery Programme		
	Corporate functions to consider the impact of the their services on the CEAP		
	Adopt a Sustainable Procurement Guide	Ensure council procurements have supply chain net zero requirements	
	Promote lower emissions food stock	Ensure all catering contracts offer plant based food options	

Council Direct Emissions - Achievements 2020-2025



Approximately 81% of the corporate estate has been fully or partly decarbonised



£23.4m invested in retrofitting corporate assets



21 buildings retrofitted with air source heat pumps



21 buildings retrofitted with Solar PV



16 schools have been certified green flag eco schools status



Installed 2.031 MWp of solar PV



Refuse and Recycling Collection Vehicles powered by HVO fuel



Implemented the bulky waste collection policy



West London Low Carbon Procurement Toolkit embedded in tenders



Introduced the tusker electric car salary sacrifice scheme



Launched the Green Ambassadors network



Promotion of active travel initiatives such as Cycle to Work Scheme, Try Before You Bike, Council Bike Loan and Dr Bike Health Checks

Review of Progress Against Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets

Borough Wide Emissions

The tables below set out the progress made to date on the actions that will result in a reduction in borough emissions.

KEY: Achieved In progress Superseded Not started

*now reclassified as wider borough

	Year of action 2020/21	Year two - five (short term 2021/22 - 2024/25)	Year six - ten (medium to long term 2025/26 - 2029/30)
Retrofit Hounslow and deliver zero carbon housing	Roll out Better Homes and Better Health Programme, targeting minimum 1,000 households annually over ten years		
	Increase the carbon offsetting cost for new developments to £95 per tonne to carbon aligned to the London Plan	Adopt and implement the Climate Change SPD	Review the carbon offsetting cost and where required update the SPD
	Facilitate community energy projects and energy workshops / training for community group and businesses		
	Work with landlords to overcome barriers to invest in energy efficiency in rented properties	By 2025, no new homes to be connected to the gas grid – target adopted in the Local Plan or the Climate Change SPD	
	Assist with the implementation of Smart Meter devices		
Sustainable travel promotion	Review parking fees	Introduce a price differential between zero, low and higher emissions vehicles for all pay & display bays both on street and off street in order to help incentivise a shift towards lower emissions vehicles	
	Commence implementation of Cycleway 9 along with first tranche of routes related to cycle priority network		Hounslow Priority Cycle Network implemented
	Progress workplace parking levy business case for Great West Corridor in Brentford	Implement workplace parking levy in Great West Corridor in Brentford	Roll out workplace parking levy across the borough
	Continue to offer free cycle training for children and adults		
	Pilot school street initiatives	E-bike schemes rolled out across the borough	

Review of Progress Against Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets

Borough Wide Emissions

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	Year of action 2020/21	Year two - five (short term 2021/22 - 2024/25)	Year six - ten (medium to long term 2025/26 - 2029/30)
Sustainable travel promotion	Complete roll out of Legible London pedestrian wayfinding across all our town centres	Car club and car share schemes rolled out across the borough	Progress extension of Cycleway 9 to Heathrow and to Feltham
	Work with TfL to enhance bus services serving growth areas	Implement step-free access at all rail stations on the Hounslow Loop	Support the continued rollout of Low Emission Bus Zones in all town centres
	Deliver the South Chiswick Liveable Neighbourhood scheme	Commence construction of Brentford to Southall rail link	
	Reduce the amount of unnecessary idling in the borough through the targeted enforcement activity of the anti-idling Traffic Management Order	Support approval of West London Orbital scheme and a new Southern Rail Access to Heathrow airport	Ensure the implementation of remaining Hounslow priority cycle network
A transition to electric mobility	Supercharge the EV charging point programme: install c400 EV charging points by April 2021	Ensure all council car parks have EV charging (fast or rapid) available	
		Ensure all new developments with car parking delivery EV charging in line with London Plan standards	
		Deliver 2,000 EV charge points, by 2026	

Review of Progress Against Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets

Borough Wide Emissions

The tables below set out the progress made to date on the actions that will result in a reduction in borough emissions.

KEY: Achieved In progress Superseded Not started

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	Year of action 2020/21	Year two - five (short term 2021/22 - 2024/25)	Year six - ten (medium to long term 2025/26 - 2029/30)
A greener and more resilient Hounslow	Develop and approve Biodiversity and Greening the Borough Action Plans		
	Complete an assessment of the risks that climate events pose on Hounslow and its communities	Implement the most practical and cost-effective actions that will enable the borough to adapt to the impacts of climate change	
		Implement Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy including Nature Recovery Action Plan	
Stimulate the local green economy	Review of the Council's s106 training for developers and Development obligations	Develop and provide training programme for local people to provide them with skills and education to work in the environmental sectors	
	Utilise the procurement process to require contractors to positively impact the local green economy	Develop guidance for small businesses to implement carbon reduction and install energy conservation measures	

Wider Borough Emissions - Achievements 2020-2025



In partnership with Thames Water and Thames21 nine SuDS schemes completed to prevent surface water flooding



Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document adopted which strengthens our powers to ensure low carbon homes and regeneration



£350k Community Energy Fund granted to community organisations across 11 projects



Hounslow Green Investment launched raising its first £1m of £5m over five years for local environment and resilience projects



Innovate and Grow supported twenty businesses to retrofit office premises and embed sustainability into their business operations



Supported tenants and leaseholders through the rollout of the Better Homes, Better Health Scheme providing over 50 home visits and 140 phone consultations to residents



Local Area Energy Plan developed identifying net zero infrastructure requirements across the borough and a pathway to net zero



Secured £10.5m from Green Heat Network Fund for delivery of phase one £50m heat network and potential £450m borough wide district heat network



36 schools retrofitted including 34 transitioned to Air Source Heat Pumps and 25 installed with Solar PV and battery storage



Adopted Kerbside, Parking, Electric Vehicle and Transport Strategies



37 school streets delivered. Priority Cycle Network 9 completed from Hammersmith and Fulham to Brentford. 3 stations upgraded to step free access.



Expansion of e-bike cycle hire and introduction of emissions-based parking charges

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026-2030



Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026-2030

The Climate Emergency Action Plan has four key priorities:



Decarbonisation of Council operations and estate to achieve net zero by 2030



Influence a reduction in wider borough emissions



Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change



Promote sustainable lifestyles for residents and staff



Decarbonisation of Council operations and estate to achieve net zero by 2030

- Corporate buildings
- Vehicle fleet
- Business travel
- Procured goods and services



Corporate Buildings - Definition

Objective: Replace gas boilers with low carbon heating, increase thermal efficiency and generate renewable electricity

Energy usage and emissions arise from:

- Gas for heating buildings and water
- Electricity for lighting, general power usage and decarbonised heating

Our goal:

Our aim is to achieve **net zero for the 37 buildings in the corporate estate by 2030**. We have defined full decarbonisation as implementation of the following combination of interventions:

- Replacement of gas boilers or heating system with low carbon alternative such as heat pumps or heat network*
- Installation of energy efficiency measures resulting in a level of demand reduction
- On site energy generation using Solar PV
- Implementation of Building Management Systems (BMS) to optimise energy usage

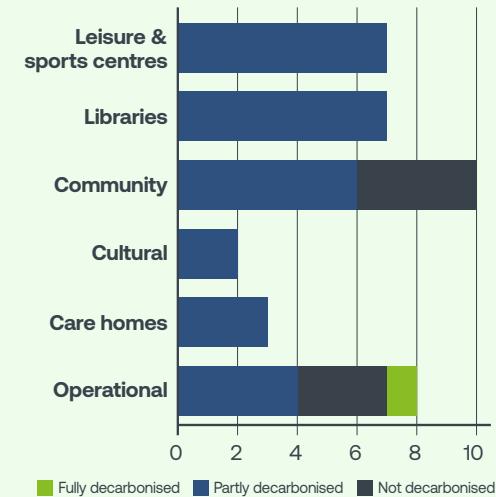
Over 50% of our corporate estate now utilise Air Source Heat Pumps. The focus for these assets is optimising building operation utilising BMS and other energy efficiency tools to ensure these low carbon technologies are operating at peak efficiency and meeting the majority of energy demand for heating and cooling. This will ensure that the buildings are fully decarbonised based on having the right measures installed and operating correctly.

In practice it may not be possible or practicable to fully decarbonise individual buildings and the full portfolio of corporate assets. This will result in residual emissions which will have to be accepted or offset.

* In some limited instances gas boilers which are not end of life may be retained for backup or to meet exceptional peak load scenarios

Corporate Assets comprise of

37 Corporate buildings by asset class:



Air source heat pumps installed:



Decarbonisation achieved against target

- 1 asset fully decarbonised
- 29 assets partly decarbonised
- 7 assets not decarbonised

Metrics of Success

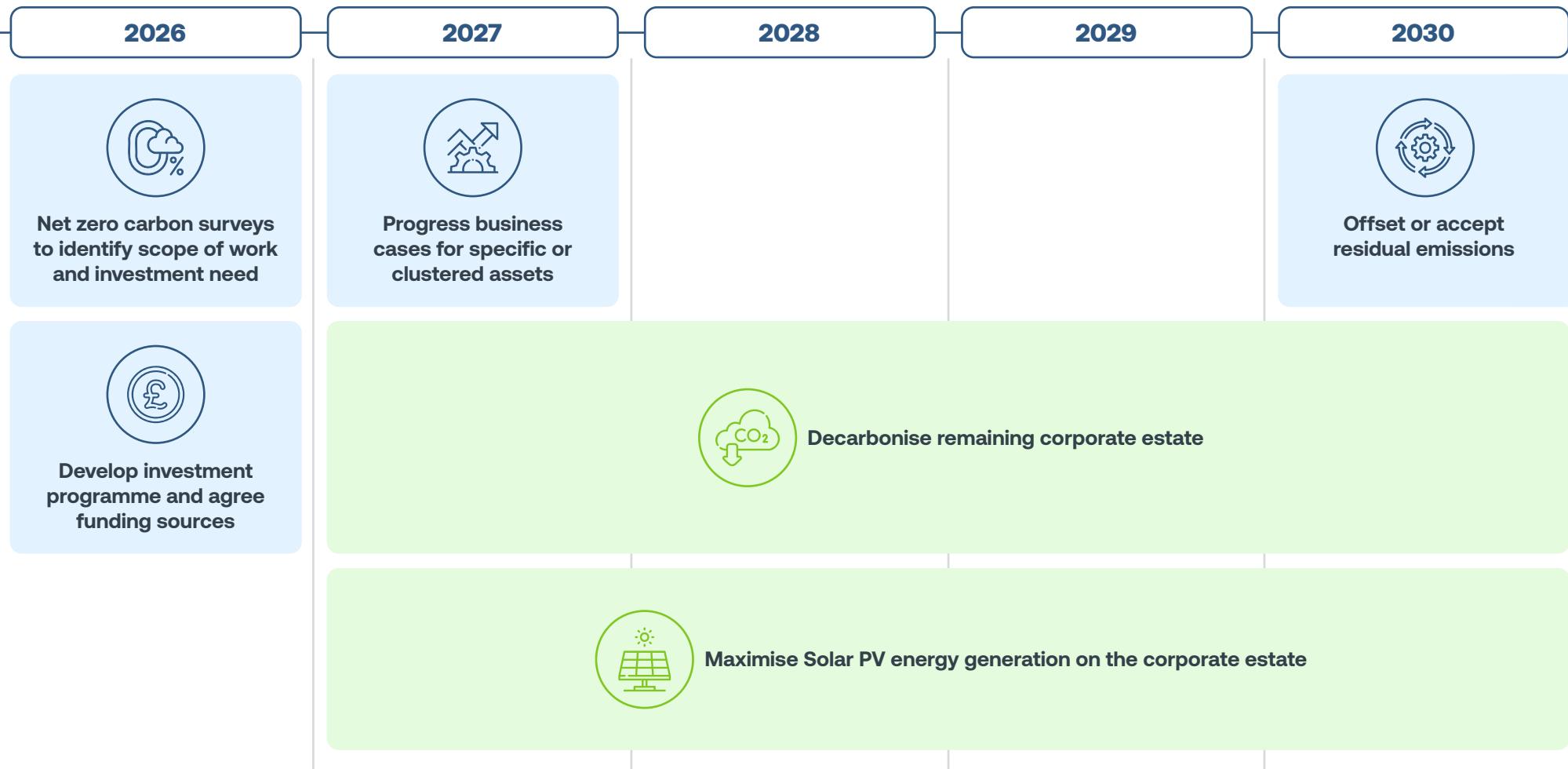
- Reduction in gas consumption
- Increase in kwh energy generated by Solar PV

Corporate Buildings - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Replace gas boilers with low carbon heating, increase thermal efficiency and generate renewable electricity

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Corporate Buildings - Risks and Constraints

Objective: Replace gas boilers with low carbon heating, increase thermal efficiency and generate renewable electricity

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- Whilst overall energy consumption will reduce as more corporate assets are decarbonised there will be a proportional increase in electricity usage relative to gas consumption. To achieve true net zero the Council is dependent on the UK government meeting its objective to decarbonise the grid by 2030.

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Insufficient funding available to maximise grant funding	Grant funding often requires the Council to match fund with its own investment. Financial constraints could hamper our ability to secure the desired level of match funding.	Ensure the Carbon Offset Fund is prioritised towards decarbonisation measures for corporate assets that are within the scope of our net zero by 2030 target.	Amber
No successor grant funding to Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	Significant source of grant funding no longer available.	Develop investment mechanisms including SPVs and PPA to reduce the reliance on public funding sources.	Green
Ongoing costs for low carbon technology	Increase in utility costs and revenue budgets.	Ensure business case developed to decarbonise a building takes into consideration the ongoing asset management and maintenance costs. Ensure appropriate thermal efficient measures are considered from the outset.	Green

Vehicle Fleet - Definition

Objective: Transition away from fossil fuel powered to ultra-low emission vehicles

Emissions arise from:

- Vehicles powered by internal combustion engines using petrol and diesel fuel

Our goal:

Our target is to move to a **100% ultra-low emission vehicle fleet**.

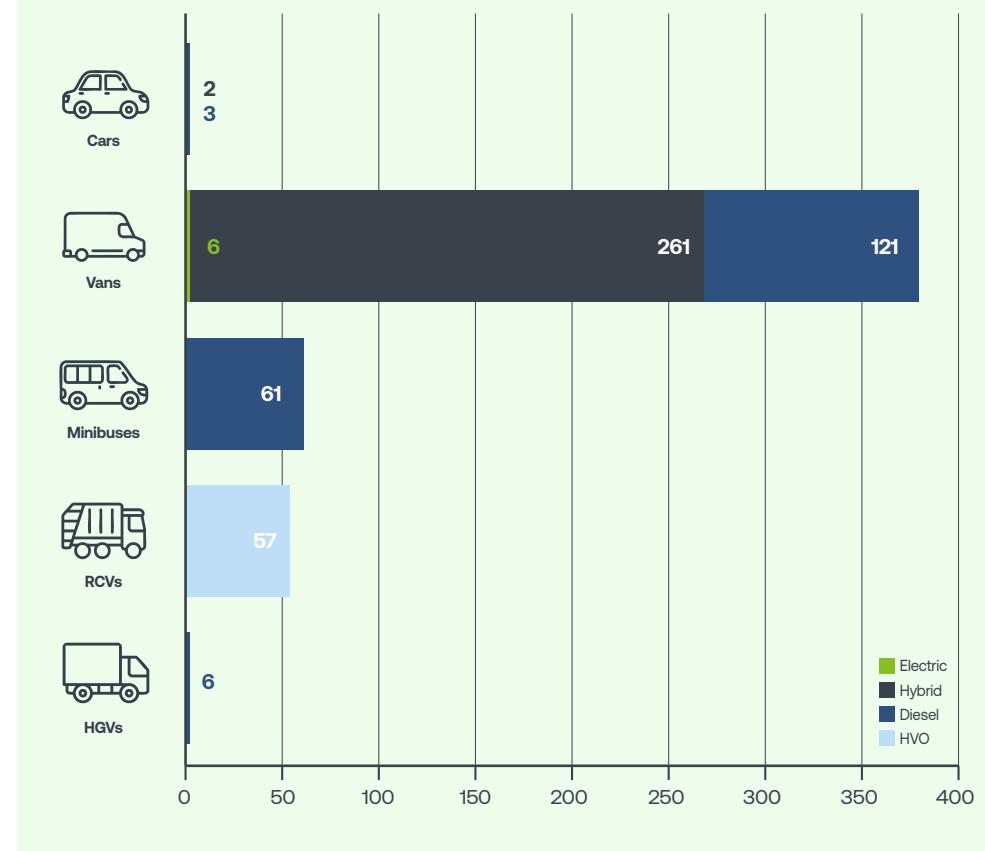
For larger vehicles, it will take several years to reach the right balance between reliable technology, affordable costs and proven performance.

During this interim period, we have transitioned to alternative sustainable fuels such as HVO, which can cut emissions by **85-90%**. These fuels acts as a temporary bridge until other ultra-low emission options are ready to be rolled out across the fleet.

Metrics of Success

- Proportion of mileage met from HVO and electric vehicles
- Reduction in fossil fuel consumption

Fleet is comprised of Council owned vehicles:

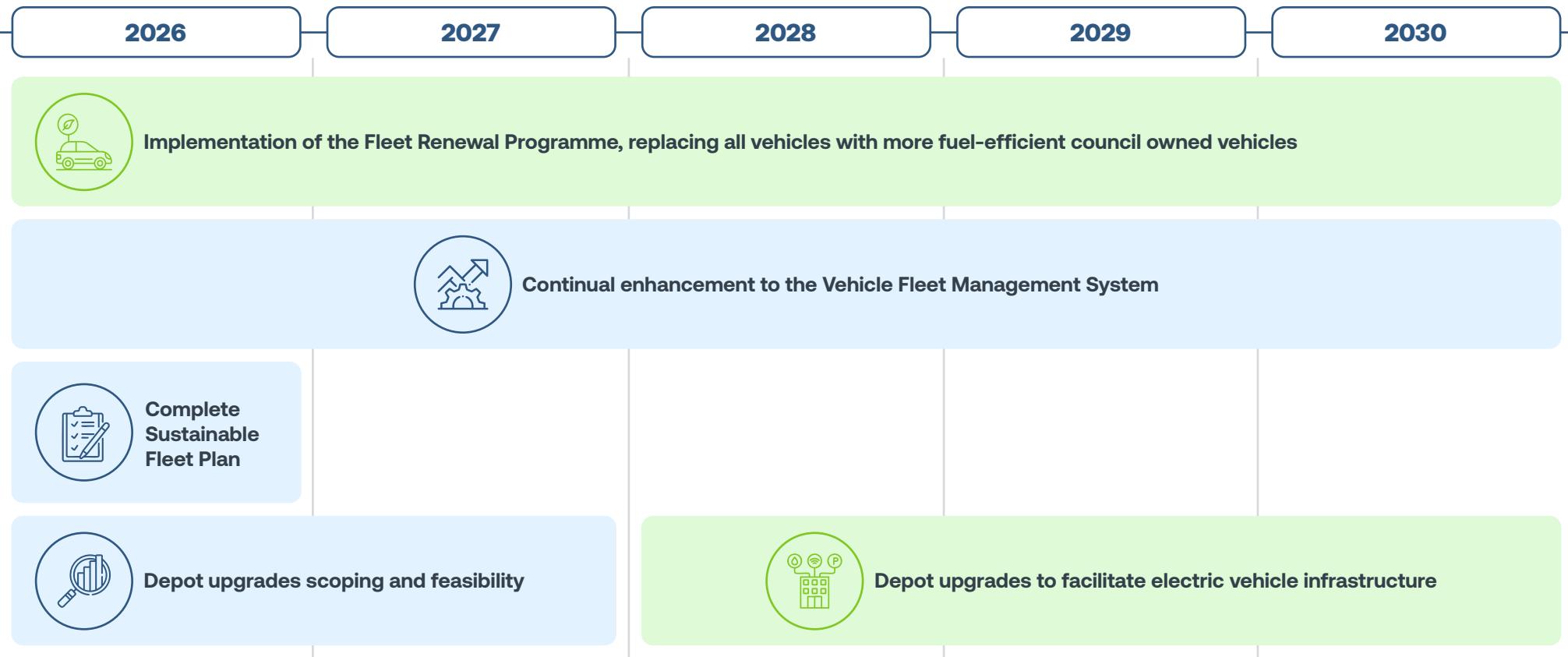


Vehicle Fleet - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Transition away from fossil fuel powered to ultra-low emission vehicles

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Vehicle Fleet - Risks and Constraints

Objective: *Transition away from fossil fuel powered to ultra-low emission vehicles*

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- Depot charging capacity is limited and requires an upgrade to accommodate large-scale EV deployment. An energy audit of the depot will be required to determine site capacity before phased infrastructure upgrades are implemented.

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Timing of the fleet replacement	Replacing vehicles before true end-of-life creates embodied carbon and financial inefficiencies. This undermines the carbon savings and is unnecessary expenditure which is a risk to the Council.	Managed by replacing vehicles only at the end-of-life stage prioritising clean replacements; and optimising vehicle life extension through maintenance.	
Technology readiness and reliability	EV and heavy-duty vehicles remain less proven than other categories of electric vehicles. This poses a potential reputational risk if operational reliability affects service delivery and disruption occurs.	Ensuring sufficient technology maturity before procurement and implementation. Trial EV and heavy-duty vehicles before scaling up to a full transition which must be supported by robust maintenance contracts.	
Timing of depot infrastructure upgrades	If depots are consolidated or new ones created there is a risk of upgrading EV infrastructure for assets that will be disposed and replaced.	Complete a feasibility study of the council owned depots to understand requirements across the whole portfolio including future EV infrastructure requirements and the timing for their deployment.	

Business Travel - Definition

Objective: Reduce emissions from employee business travel

Emissions arise from:

- Business travel undertaken by employees by road and in limited instances aviation.*

Our goal:

Our goal is to reduce emissions from all travel associated with business related activities undertaken by council employees.

In practice, the Council has some influence over which modes of transport employees utilise to undertake business related activities. Specifically, the type of vehicle they use. Where possible, employees are encouraged to use our pre-bookable pool cars, or utilise another form of active or sustainable travel, such as public transport or cycling. For some council employees such as social workers that require more flexibility to travel to client's homes - they may require the use of a personal vehicle.

To date, the Council has made significant progress in promoting sustainable options to staff that undertake business related travel such as:

- Improvements to cycle parking infrastructure
- Electric vehicle leasing scheme available at favourable terms for council employees

Using practical policy implementation, we can aim to keep emissions arising from business related travel as low as possible. A fair sustainable travel policy reflecting that operational staff have different challenges to office-based staff, will be consulted on and implemented. For exceptions where sustainable transport options are not viable, for example any air travel, we will explore options for offsetting such emissions.

** Previously all work-related travel including employee travel to and from work was considered part of the net zero by 2030 target. In practice the Council has only limited influence over how employees choose to commute and no ability or desire to mandate how employees travel to and from work.*

Metrics of Success

- Proportion of car hire fleet which is ULEV
- Reducing business related mileage from ICE vehicles
- Zero air travel where climate friendly alternatives are available



Business Travel - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Reduce emissions from employee business travel

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Business Travel - Risks and Constraints

Objective: Reduce emissions from employee business travel

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- Accurate and reliable data is crucial if the council is to set a baseline and track emissions reduction from employee related business travel.

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Poor data capture to determine accurate business related mileage	Errors in the carbon footprint calculation	Identify a suitable tool and accurate dataset to calculate emissions reduction from business related travel	
Use of personal vehicles to undertake council activity	Increase in mileage and carbon footprint	Promote sustainable options to staff that undertake business related travel	

Procured Goods and Services - Definition

Objective: Incentivise our suppliers to decarbonise their operations and the goods and services delivered to the council

Emissions arise from the activities of our supply chain

Our goal:

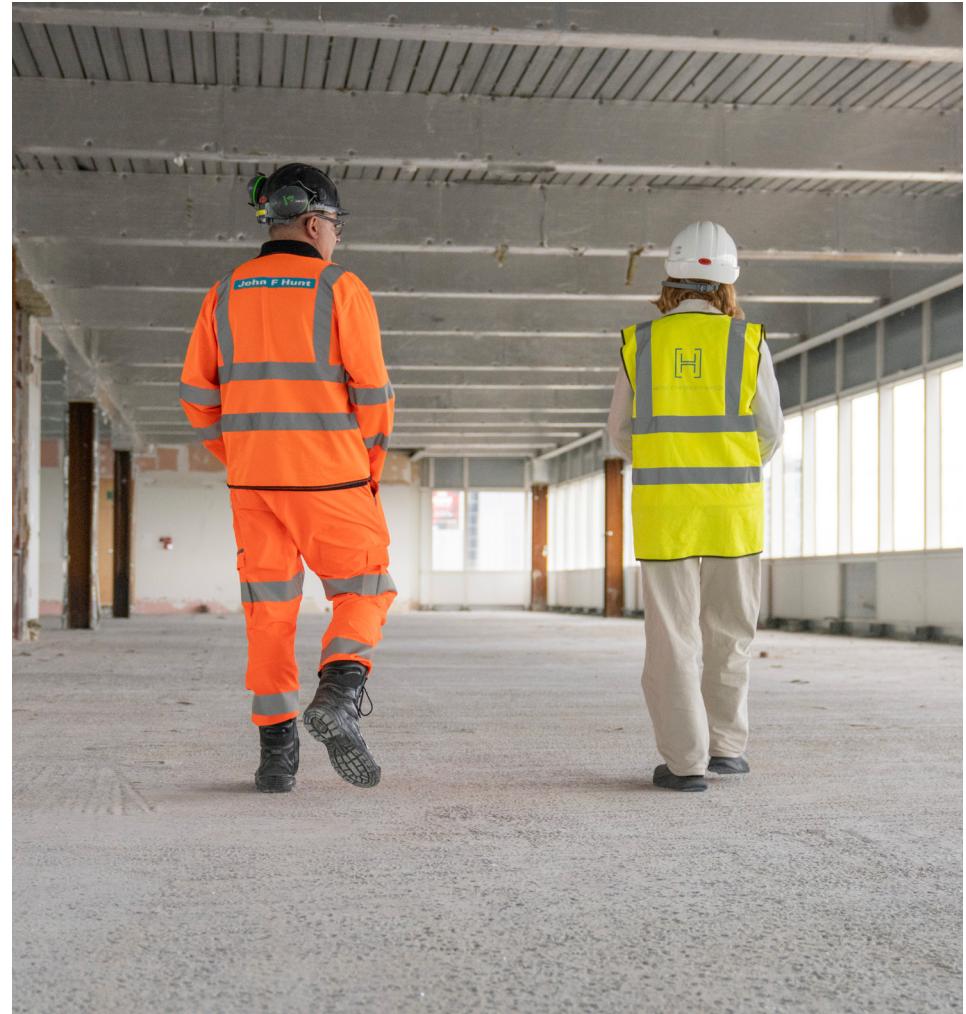
We aim to embed **sustainable principles** throughout our **procurement processes**, encouraging prospective and existing suppliers to adopt high environmental standards. This, in turn, aids in strengthening the capacity of our local supply chain and reducing indirect carbon emissions.

The Council procures a wide range of goods and services. Assessing which of our supply chain activities produce the greatest carbon impact is an essential first step to meaningfully reducing emissions associated with these procurements.

This will allow us to determine any additional measures required to encourage a continued reduction in emissions throughout our supply chain. It will also ensure that responsible sustainability practices are central to our procurement processes and decisions we make.

Metrics of Success

- Reduction in emissions for high impact goods and services
- Increase in number of suppliers who have signed the West London Low Carbon Procurement Charter
- Increase in suppliers who have contractual net zero commitments

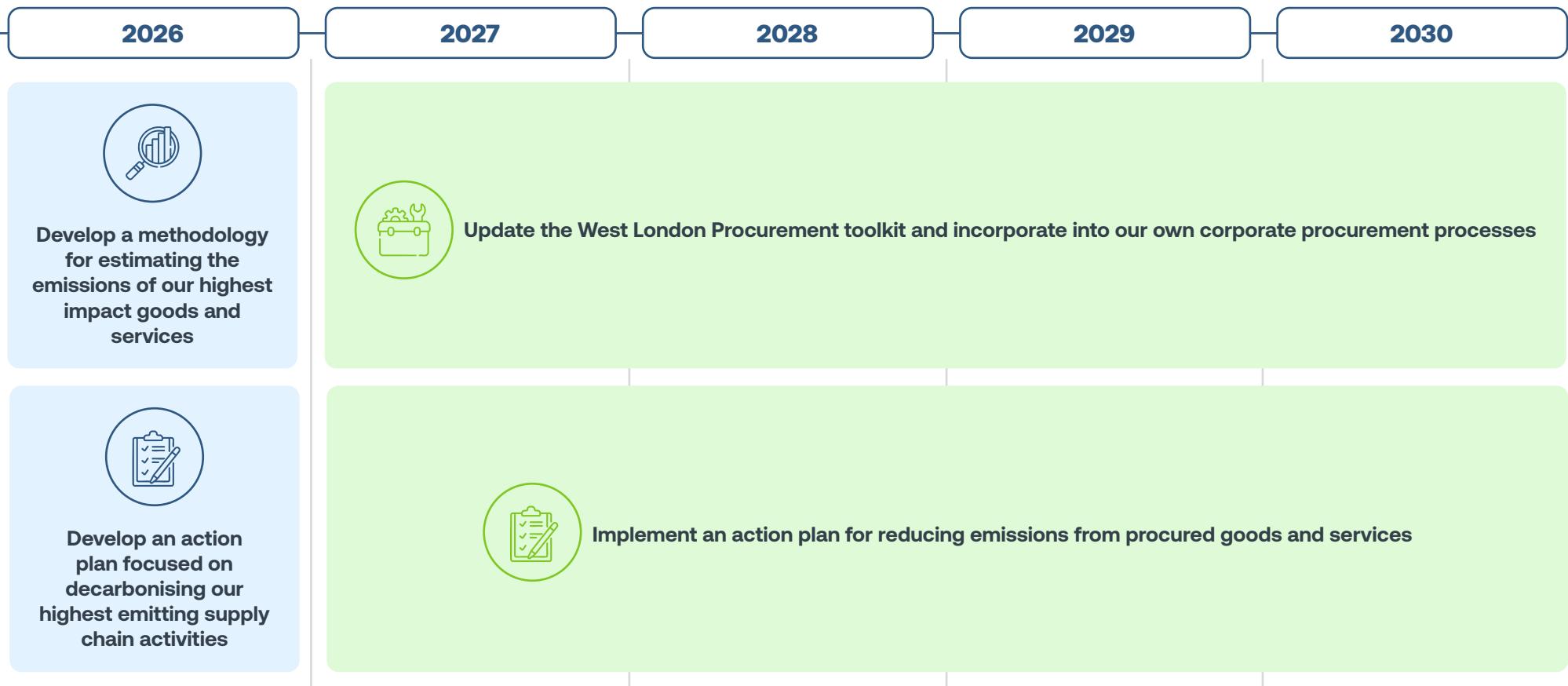


Procured Goods and Services - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Incentivise our suppliers to decarbonise their operations and the goods and services delivered to the council

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Procured Goods and Services - Risks and Constraints

Objective: Incentivise our suppliers to decarbonise their operations and the goods and services delivered to the council

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- Measuring emissions associated with procured goods and services can be challenging due to the lack of availability of data and the lack of processes in place to ensure a consistent approach to measuring and tracking progress. It is important to develop a methodology which moves away from utilising a spend based approach and focuses on a product based approach that targets our highest emitting goods and services.

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Availability of data	Unable to source data to calculate emissions baseline.	In collaboration with Procurement Team, develop a robust methodology to enable the council to estimate emissions from highest impact goods and services.	
Lack of supplier engagement	Unable to source required information and data to develop a meaningful baseline.	In collaboration with West London Boroughs explore opportunities to secure data from suppliers by updating the West London Low Carbon Procurement Charter.	
Cost of contracts increases through suppliers meeting net zero requirements	Higher cost of procured goods and services.	Influence and negotiate with suppliers during market testing stage and adopt a consistent approach across boroughs.	
Supplier appetite for bidding decreases due to additional net zero requirements	Reduced supplier interest in bidding for contracts.	Early engagement with potential suppliers at market testing stage.	

Influence a reduction in wider borough emissions

- Built environment
- Transport



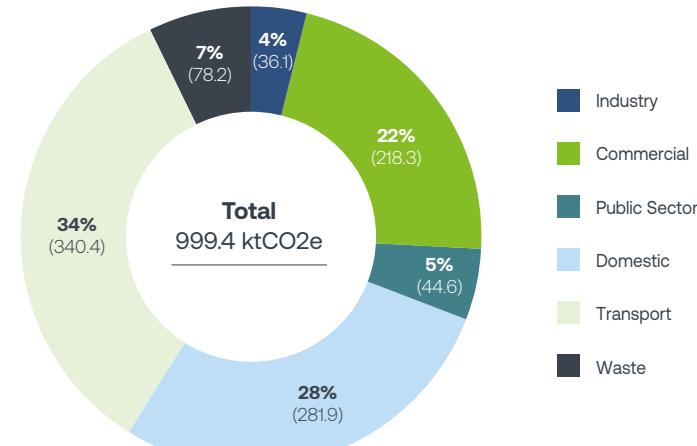
Wider Borough Emissions

Wider borough emissions are all emissions generated within Hounslow not just those from Council operations. These emissions are comprised of

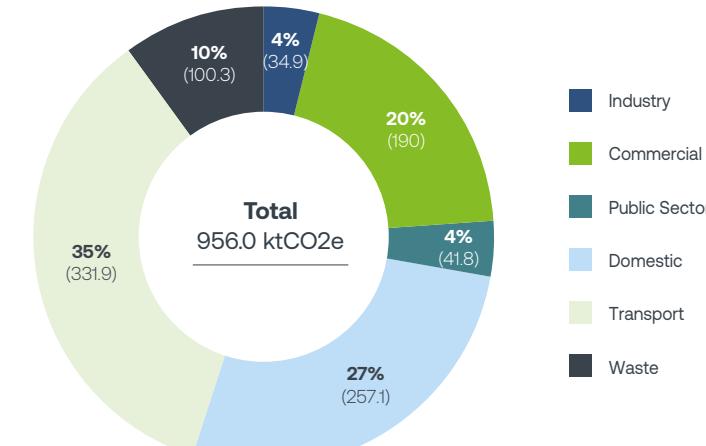


To track emissions across the borough we use Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) territorial emissions data which is available for every council in England and Wales. Due to the complexity generating this large dataset there is a two year time lag on the data.

2022 Hounslow greenhouse gas emissions (kt CO2e)



2023 Hounslow greenhouse gas emissions (kt CO2e)



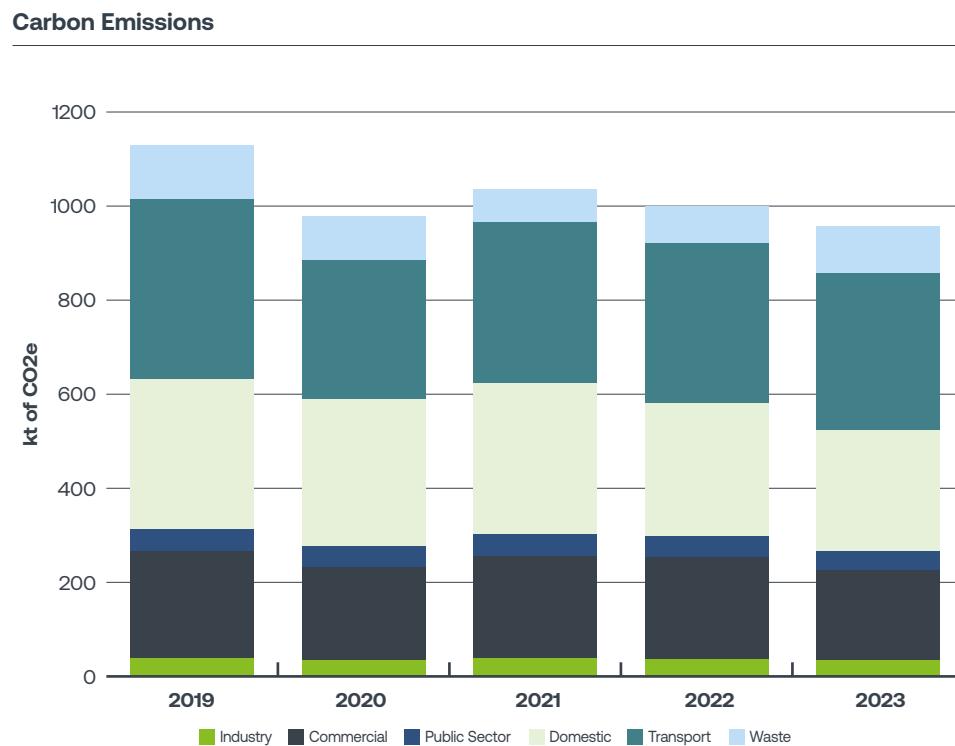
2022-2023 Change (kt CO2e)

Sector	Change (%)	Change (kt CO2e)
Industry	-3.5%	-1.26
Commercial	-12.97%	-28.31
Public Sector	-6.13%	-2.73
Domestic	-8.8%	-24.80
Transport	-2.51%	-8.53
Waste	+28.33%	+22.15
TOTAL	-4.35%	-43.5

Wider Borough Emissions

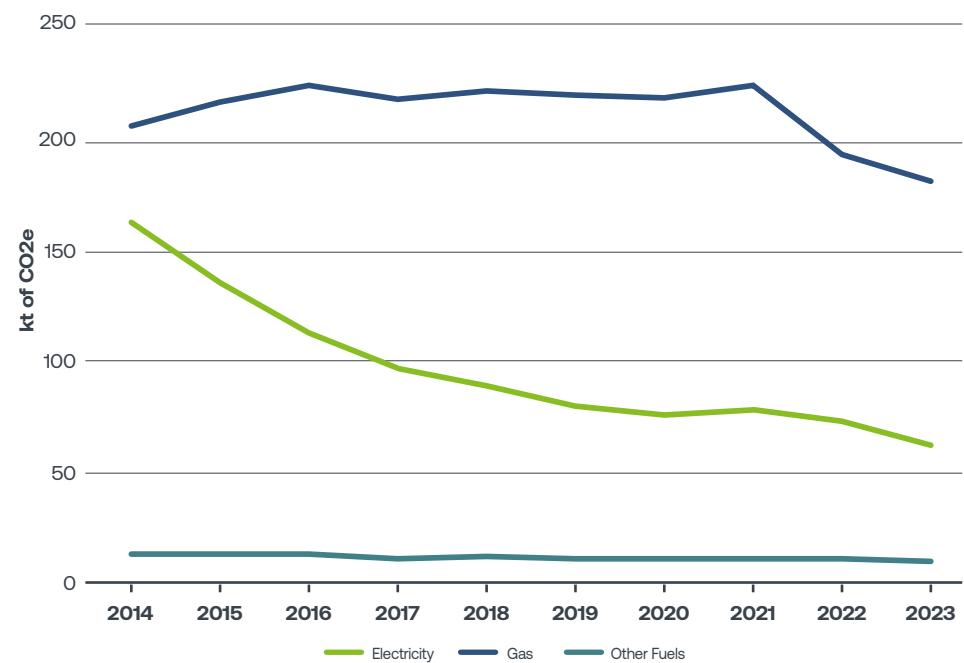
Transport and domestic emissions are combined the largest source of emissions in the borough at 62%. Within transport by far the single largest driver of emissions is road transport at 82%.

Commercial and public sector emissions are third accounting for 24% of all emissions in the borough. Industrial and waste processes are the smallest contributors accounting for 14% of all borough emissions.



Overall trend of emissions is on a downward trajectory noting the outlier of significantly reduced emissions 2019 to 2020 reflecting inactivity attributed to Covid lockdown.

Emissions by energy source



Gas usage has been on a downward trajectory since 2021, reflecting the increased adoption of low carbon heating and cooling technologies. Decline in electricity usage over the same period is less significant, reflecting transition to low carbon technologies such as Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV are reliant on increased electrification.

Wider Borough Emissions

Scope of wider borough emissions the council can influence

The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026 – 2030 focuses wider borough activities on the built environment and transport where the Council can use its control and influence to drive meaningful reductions in carbon emissions.

Built Environment

	Domestic properties
	Commercial buildings
	Community buildings
	Schools and nurseries

	Hospitals, clinics and health centres
	Colleges and universities
	Police, fire and ambulance stations

Transport

	Public Transport
	Road
	Active Travel

Scope of wider borough emissions outside the Council's influence

Industrial processes are largely outside of the Council's control. Waste management emissions are largely from processes of dealing with waste created rather than the consumer or business activities which generate the waste. Whilst the Council through its wholly owned companies undertake waste collection and recycling, treatment and disposal is managed by the West London Waste Authority multi-borough partnership.

Our goal

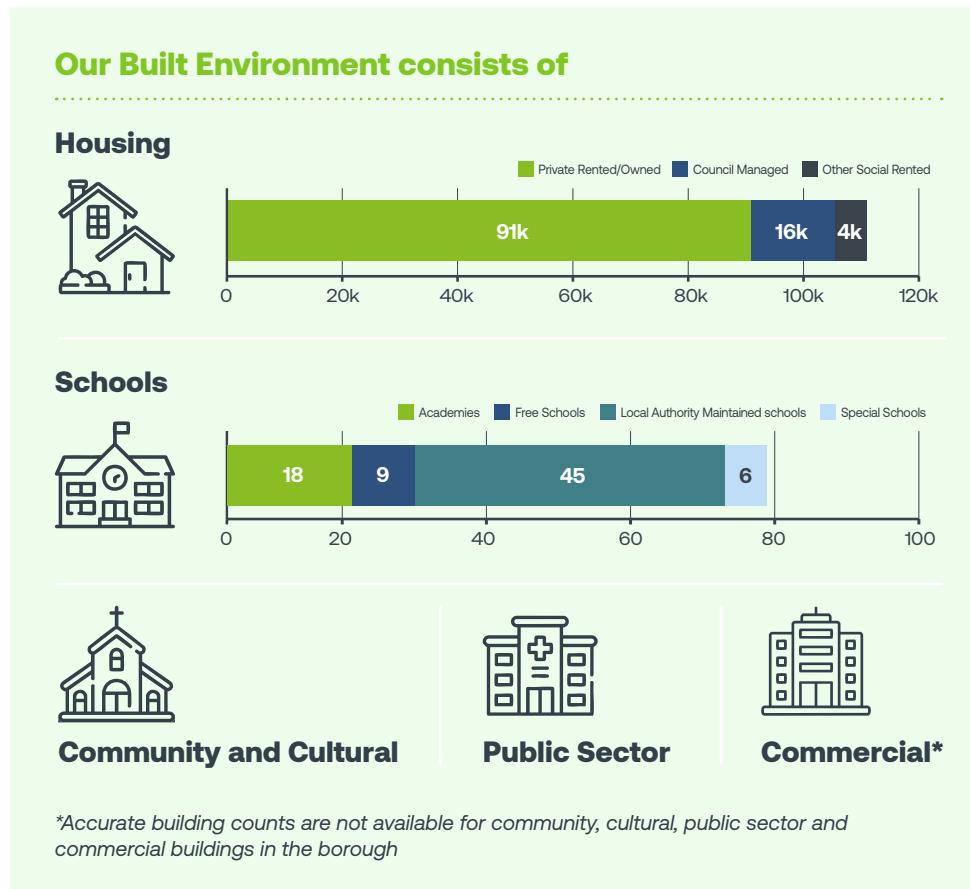
Our target is to influence wider borough emissions reduction to help achieve net zero across Hounslow by latest 2050 in line with UK legislation. The Council will work alongside partners including residents and businesses to accelerate decarbonisation and deliver growth ahead of the national 2050 target.

Built Environment - Definition

Objective: Influence wider boroughs emissions reduction and promote a just transition

Carbon emissions arise from:

- Electricity and gas used to power, heat and cool homes and buildings
- Development and construction of new homes and buildings



Housing

Our objective is to ensure all residents benefit from cheaper-to-run, warmer and healthier homes. Our priority is residents most at risk of fuel poverty, particularly people living in homes with EPC rating of D or below and in identified Equality Opportunity Areas.

To achieve this we will use the findings of our net zero neighbourhoods feasibility study to develop a pilot comprising 500-1,000+ homes which will benefit from zero upfront cost deep whole house retrofit. If successful net zero neighbourhoods will serve as an approach to deliver retrofit at scale across the borough regardless of building type or tenure.

Once adopted, our updated Local Plan will require all new homes to meet more stringent net zero and resilience standards. The Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document provides further guidance to support these aims, and will be updated to reflect the new Local Plan.



Built Environment - Definition

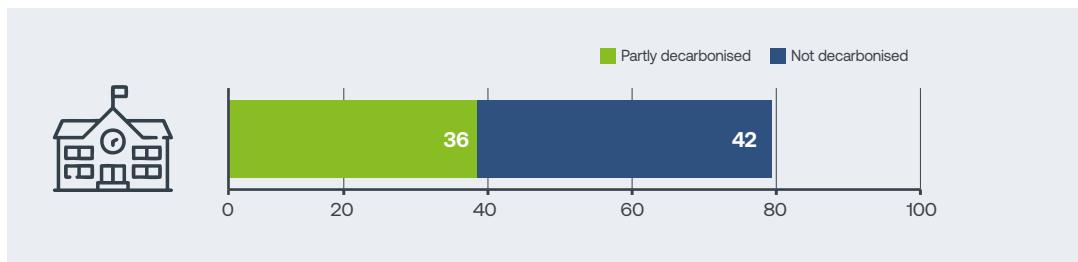
Objective: Influence wider boroughs emissions reduction and promote a just transition



Schools

We will expand our schools decarbonisation programme to cover all state-funded schools. This will require transitioning schools that currently rely on gas boilers to Air Source Heat Pumps and completing the full decarbonisation of schools that have already begun this process. To achieve this, we will:

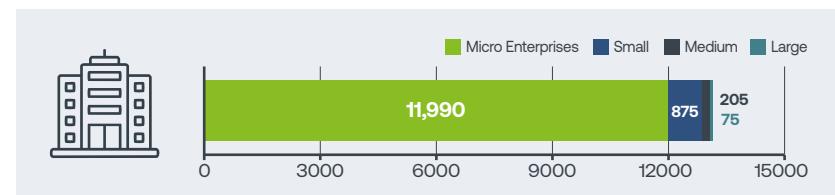
- Bid for and utilise grant funding
- Integrate decarbonisation opportunities into the schools capital maintenance programme
- Incorporate schools decarbonisation programme into a strategic energy partnership



Commercial

The Council has delivered several pilots to support SME decarbonisation utilising Covid Recovery and UK Shared Prosperity funds. Whilst these have been successful and impactful for the businesses it has engaged, the overall reach has ultimately been limited by available funding and capacity. Our ambition is to scale a borough wide programme working with partners for SMEs to:

- Adopt sustainability and Net-Zero transition
- Access supply chains opportunities to deliver our climate ambitions



Large businesses are better equipped and have more regulatory drivers to transform their businesses and premises.

Our updated Local Plan and Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document will ensure new commercial developments meet net zero and resilience standards.



Public Sector

Where feasible and appropriate we will encourage public sector estate to connect into the future borough wide district heat network.

Built Environment - Definition

Objective: Influence wider boroughs emissions reduction and promote a just transition



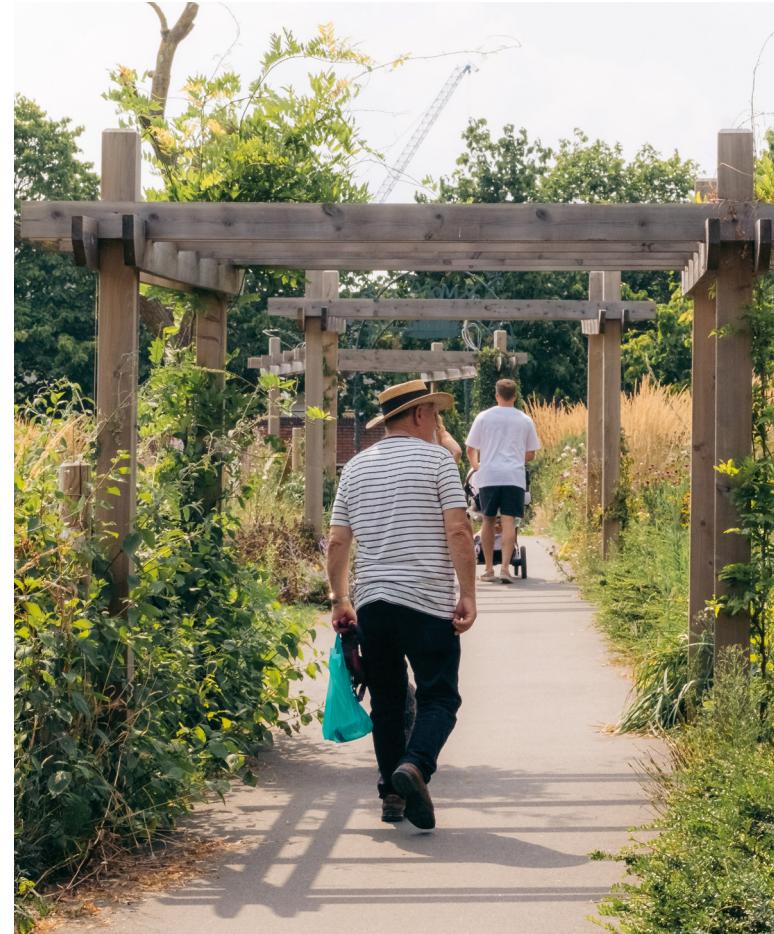
Community & Cultural

We want to empower our communities to identify, develop, and deliver their own decarbonisation projects which cut emissions, reduce operating costs and make spaces more comfortable for wider community beneficiaries. To achieve this, we will:

- Expand the Community Energy Fund
- Deploy Hounslow Green Investment to place based decarbonisation and resilience projects
- Incorporate community led decarbonisation initiatives into a strategic energy partnership

Metrics of Success

- Reduction in wider borough emissions
- Number of domestic properties fully or partially decarbonised
- Improvement to EPC ratings
- Number of schools fully or partially decarbonised
- Number of public buildings connected to the District Heat Network
- Increase community energy generation

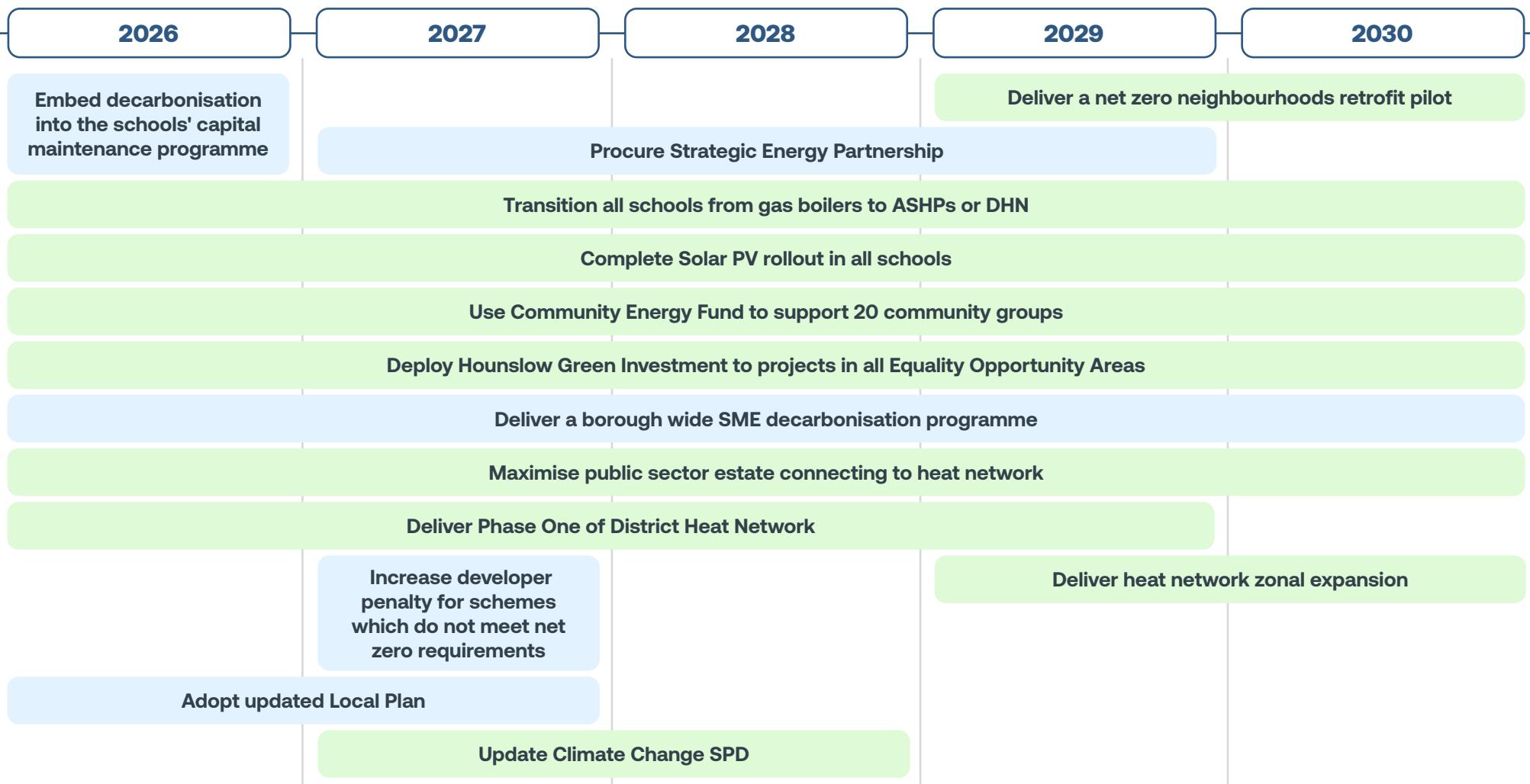


Built Environment - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Influence wider boroughs emissions reduction and promote a just transition

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Built Environment - Risks and Constraints

Objective: *Influence wider boroughs emissions reduction and promote a just transition*

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- Replacement of gas heating options with ASHPs, heat networks and solar PV increases electrical demand. This places reliance on government's pledge to decarbonise the grid to meet net zero and reinforcement of the grid to meet the required demand.
- Assets which are not owned or managed by the Council have limited access to public funding to implement decarbonisation. As the Council is not the primary beneficiary its ability to fund decarbonisation projects to these assets is limited.

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Limited grant funding with specific restrictive criteria	Opportunities are pursued based on eligibility rather than need resulting in only partial decarbonisation of assets and areas most in need are not prioritised.	Utilising multiple sources of funding to where possible implement combined interventions to fully decarbonise assets. Implement Strategic Energy Partnership to secure private sector investment.	
Incorrect use of new low carbon technologies	The right measures are installed but do not yield the full potential of emissions reduction, energy consumption and bill savings due to incorrect application of technologies.	Embed asset operation into the delivery and handover processes including optimisation of Building Management Systems.	
Lack of PSDS successor fund	PSDS has been a significant source of grant funding to deliver decarbonisation.	Implement a Strategic Energy Partnership to leverage additional sources of funding including private sector investment to fund projects.	
Funding constraints limit match funding	The Council may be unable to maximise grant funding due to pressure on funding sources for match funding. This challenge is particularly acute for Warmer Homes.	Funding outlook may require the Council to accept this risk whilst accelerating a Strategic Energy Partnership to leverage additional sources of funding including private sector investment to fund at scale decarbonisation.	

Transport - Definition

Objective: Support a fairer, growing borough by improving sustainable travel

Carbon emissions arise from:

- Transport within and passing through the borough including private and public road journeys and rail

Hounslow's Transport Strategy has two focus areas linked to the Climate Emergency Action Plan:

- Focus 3: Improve our local environment and respond to the Climate Emergency
- Focus 4: Support a fairer, growing borough by improving sustainable travel

Our Goal

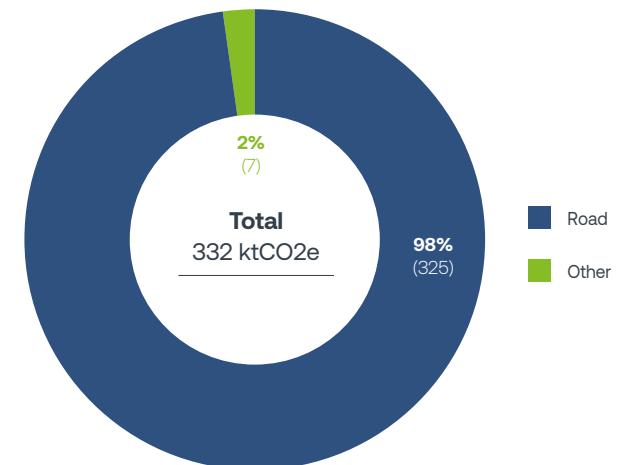
One third of all car trips in the borough are under 2km and two thirds are under 5km. Shifting private car journeys to public transport and active travel will have the greatest impact on transport related emissions. Recognising that as an outer London borough some car journeys will be required we are rolling out EV charging infrastructure across the borough to support electric car journeys.

Metrics of Success

- Number of journeys made by walking and wheeling, cycling, bus, tube and rail
- Length of new and upgraded cycle routes which meet TfL quality criteria
- Number of EV charge points



Transport emissions breakdown by proportion and number (kt CO2e)

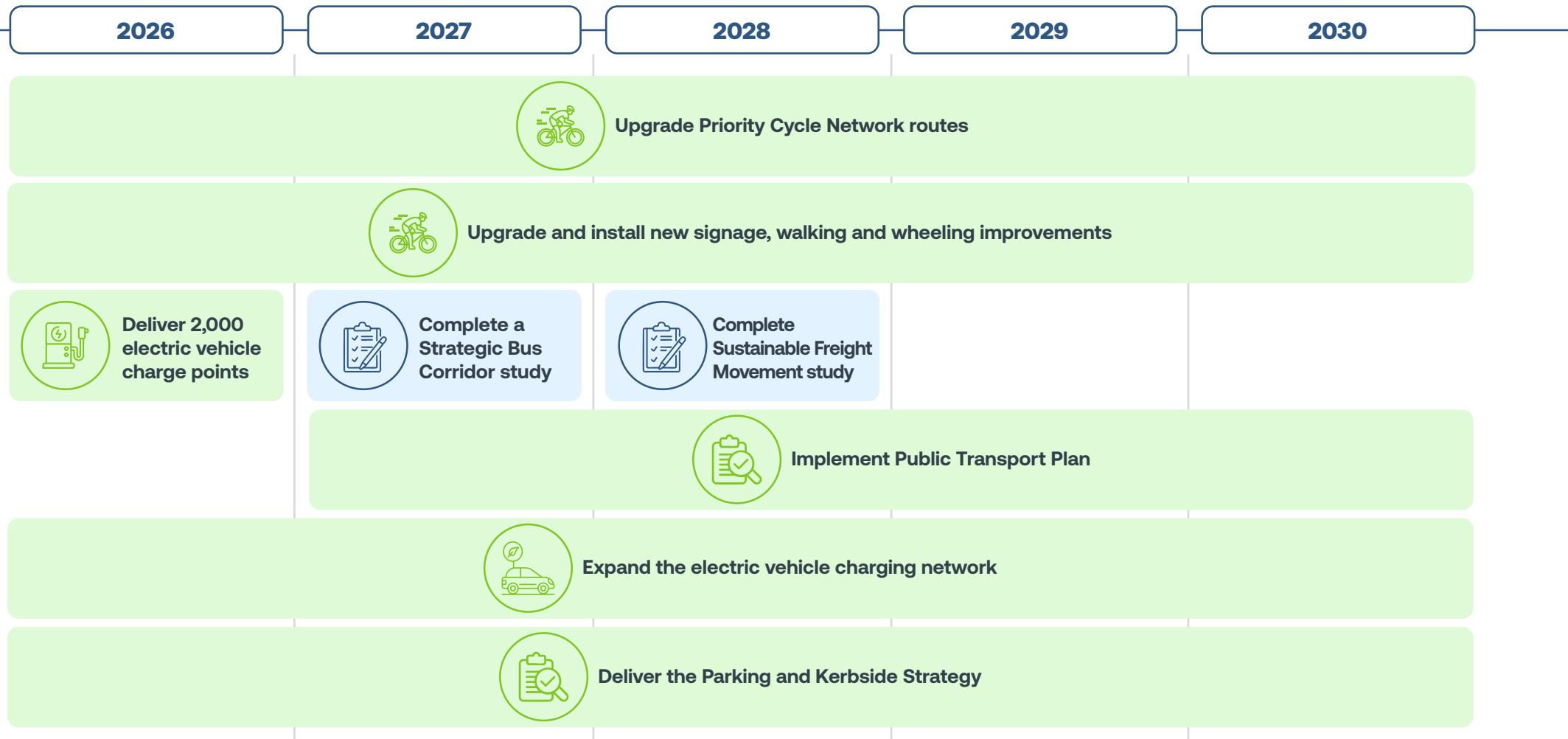


Transport - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Support a fairer, growing borough by improving sustainable travel

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Transport - Risks and Constraints

Objective: Support a fairer, growing borough by improving sustainable travel

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- The Council has limited direct control over transport emissions and must work with key partners, including Transport for London (TfL), to influence progression of large-scale public transport schemes.
- Delivery of transformational active travel schemes and rail schemes are heavily reliant on funding from TfL, DfT and private finance.
- Current technology advancements are not yet sufficient to enable cost-effective, large-scale decarbonisation of heavy vehicle transport such as HGVs alongside widespread rollout of EV passenger cars.
- Relative to other London boroughs Hounslow has a higher level of car journeys because of challenges to the accessibility of public transport.

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Lack of investment to deliver transformational rail schemes	<p>Key projects partially or not delivered at all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heathrow southern public transport access• Strategic Bus Corridor improvements• West London Orbital link• Brentford to Southall connectivity improvements	<p>Maximise existing sources of funding, leverage new opportunities for funding and continue lobbying government and the Mayor to fund rail infrastructure schemes alongside our private sector businesses and partners.</p>	
Lack of investment to deliver transformational active travel schemes	<p>Key projects partially or not delivered at all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrades to priority cycle networks• Upgrades to and installation of new signage to improve connectivity• Walking and wheeling improvements	<p>Maximise existing sources of funding, leverage new opportunities for funding and continue lobbying government and the Mayor to fund rail infrastructure schemes alongside our private sector businesses and partners.</p>	

Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change



Resilience and Adaptation - Definition

Objective: Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable groups

Our climate is changing leading to wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. This means more severe climate-related events such as:



Floods



Wildfires



Heatwaves

Extreme flooding in recent years has damaged properties, displaced residents and disrupted critical services.

The warmest temperatures on record have caused an increase in heat related deaths. We need to adapt our buildings, infrastructure and behaviours to be resilient to the impacts of climate change so we can:

- minimise disruption
- recover quickly when extreme events do occur
- protect life and property

For certain areas of climate resilience Hounslow as a local authority has a lead role working with partners to develop plans and put in place adaptation measures to appropriately manage the risk and impact of extreme events. These include:

- **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)** – This strategy outlines how the council and other key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency will manage local flood risk in the borough
- **Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)** – This plan assesses surface water flood risk in the borough and how to manage this including integration of SuDS
- **Thames Estuary 2100 Flood Risk Management Plan** – The Thames Estuary 2100 (TE 2100) Plan was developed by the Environment Agency and provides strategic direction for managing flood risk in the Thames Estuary
- **Severe Weather: Heatwave Plan**
 - Outlines processes for alert dissemination, responsibilities and
- provides guidance on utilising the Met Office Heat Watch system
- **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy** – This strategy is an essential component of resilience. It sets out programmes in our green and blue spaces to both mitigate against climate change and support adaptation
- **Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP)**
 - This plan identifies the priorities for nature recovery in the borough and sets out a programme of strategic actions to conserve, promote and increase biodiversity across the borough and develop resilience
- **Thames Landscape Strategy** – A programme of work delivered in partnership with landowners and the local community that aims to improve, enhance and conserve the waterways

Resilience and Adaptation - Definition

Objective: Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable groups

Climate Change Resilience Plan



Critical infrastructure



Built environment both residential and non-residential



Nature based solutions



Emergency planning and response



Data and monitoring



Council operations and services

The plan will be completed in March 2026 and will allow the Council working with its partners to:

- Ensure key council services and operations have climate change impacts embedded into business continuity to minimise disruption and recover effectively from extreme events
- Increase resilience of residents and places in the borough, particularly those more vulnerable to climate impacts
- Update emergency planning and preparedness for events such as floods, hot weather and wildfires
- Build capacity to strengthen co-ordination of community action in response to climate events

Metrics of Success

- Will be defined as part of the Climate Change Resilience Plan

Resilience and Adaptation - Key Activity Timeline

Objective: Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable groups

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Resilience and Adaptation - Risks and Constraints

Objective: Make the borough resilient to the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable groups

Key Constraints/Dependencies

- Delivery of flood risk management schemes including SuDS is heavily reliant on successful funding bids to our partners including Thames Water and the Environment Agency

KEY RISKS			
DESCRIPTION	IMPACT	MITIGATION	RAG
Lack of funding to meet full scheme costs	Delays progressing projects from feasibility to delivery	Utilise Community Infrastructure Levy, s106 and Hounslow Green Investment as additional match funding to meet investment gaps	
Lack of co-ordinated strategic approach across all areas of climate resilience	Lack of preparedness or suitable response	Develop and implement Climate Change Resilience Plan	

Promote sustainable lifestyles for residents and staff



Promote Sustainable Lifestyles for Residents - Definition

The focus of our activities to promote and encourage sustainable lifestyles for residents are:



Circular Economy

Consume less, repair, reuse, share and recycle more



Energy efficiency

Improve awareness of how to use appliances, heat and cool homes to reduce energy usage and save money



Travel choice

Increase active travel and use of low emission transport



Community and social well-being

Empower residents' participation in tackling the climate emergency



Schools

Supporting schools to become Eco-schools

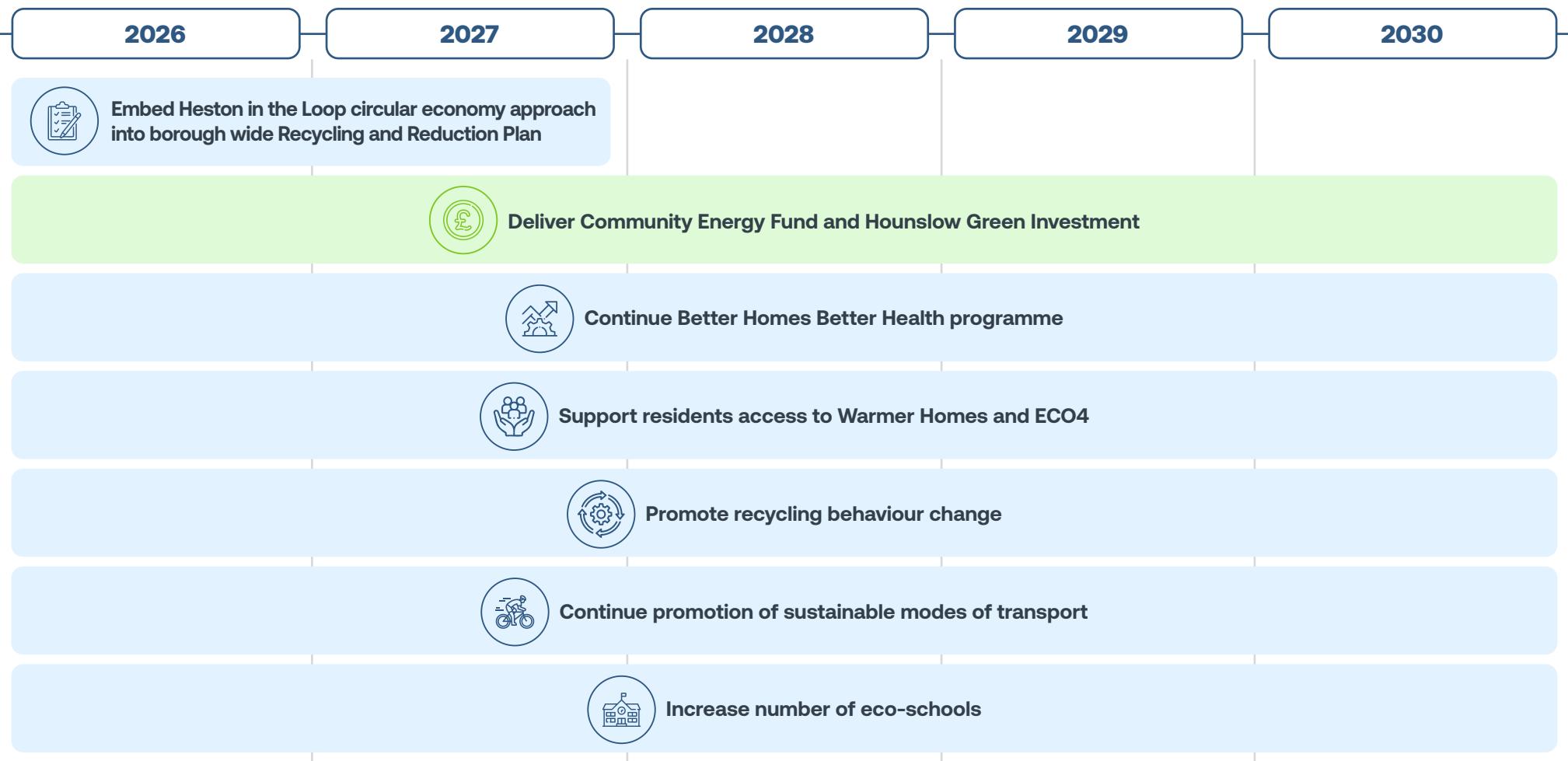
To achieve this we will

- Expand the successful Heston in the Loop circular economy pilot across the borough by embedding the approach in our Recycling and Reduction Plan
- Continue to deliver our Better Homes, Better Health programme for energy saving advice
- Ensure residents are accessing support they are entitled to for energy efficiency upgrades
- Expand the Community Energy Fund and complete further raises for Hounslow Green Investment
- Implement the Transport Strategy and supporting action plans
- Signpost to third sector led environment volunteering opportunities

Promote Sustainable Lifestyles for Residents - Key Activity Timeline

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Promoting Sustainability for Staff - Definition

The focus of our activities to promote and encourage sustainable options for staff are:



Empower staff designed and led environment initiatives



Incentivise sustainable travel options to and from places of work



Promote sustainable behaviours in the workplace to reduce consumption and increase recycling



Ensure sustainability and resilience are at the heart of projects and services

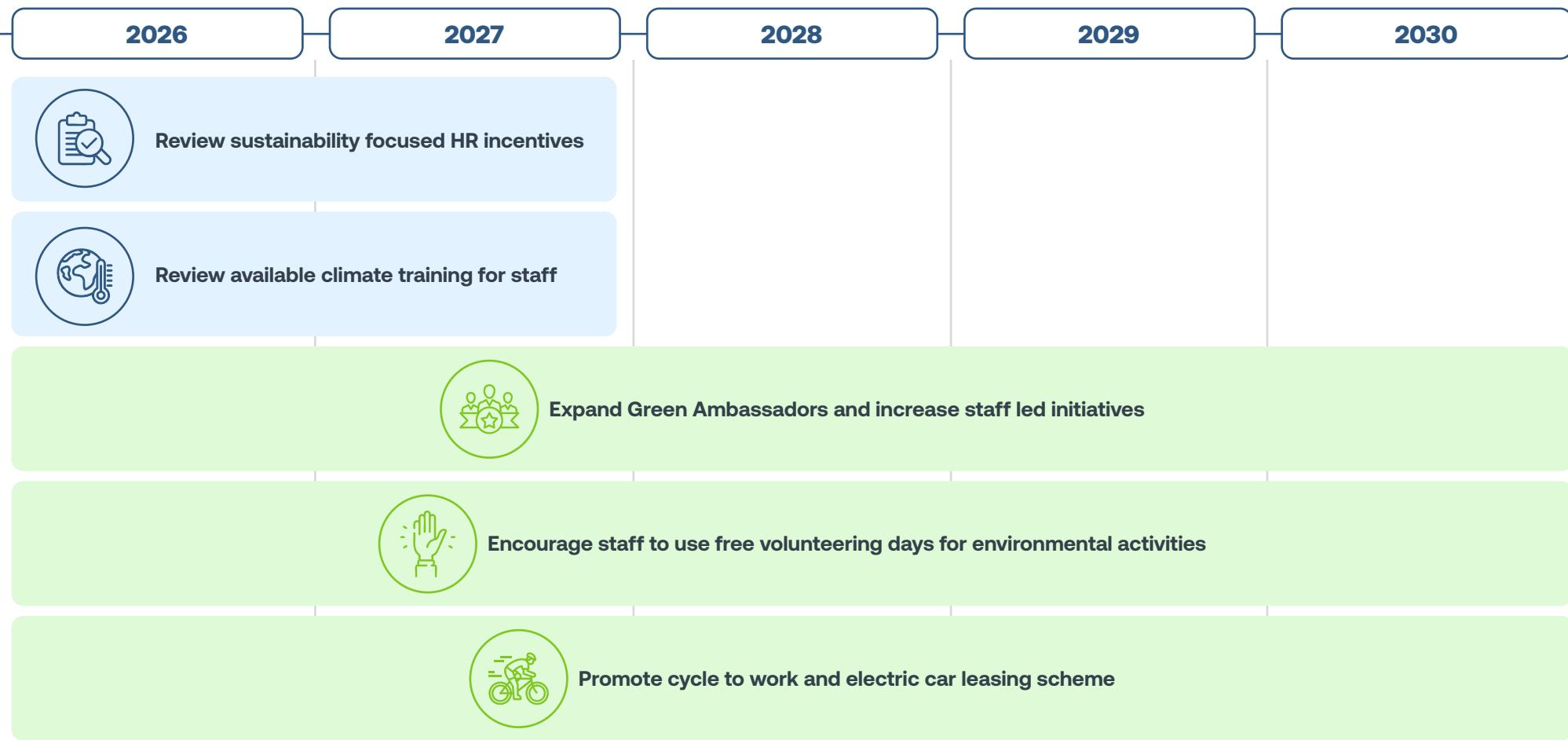
To achieve this we will

- Increase numbers of Green Ambassadors and opportunities to develop and deliver staff led initiatives
- Promote staff benefits which support sustainable travel and where possible enhance incentivisation
- Deliver behaviour change campaigns to minimise waste and promote sustainable food options at work
- Ensure continuous improvement to governance and processes requiring climate change considerations are embedded into decision making

Promoting Sustainability for Staff - Key Activity Timeline

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Our approach to Carbon Offsetting



Carbon Offsetting - Definition

The Council will continue to prioritise decarbonisation projects to achieve our net zero ambitions. However, we recognise that despite decarbonisation efforts, we will be left with a small level of residual emissions which are hard to eliminate.

Carbon offsetting offers a viable alternative to mitigate these emissions. It involves removing or reducing the residual amount of greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere so that net zero targets can be met.

There are two ways this can be applied:

- Emission mitigation projects: projects which reduce emissions by switching to renewable fuel sources or improving energy efficiency of buildings.
- Emission sequestration projects: projects which physically remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, like tree planting, reforestation or peatland restoration or use of carbon capture and storage technologies.

The Council will determine if it is appropriate to offset residual emissions. Any offsetting projects will align with the Council's strategic values and have external credibility and be from certified sources. Several factors will be considered when evaluating the suitability of offsetting in meeting net zero targets.

Financial Implications

Investment in offsetting impacts the amount that can be directed to decarbonisation initiatives and other Council projects and services. There is an opportunity cost associated with the pursuit of offsetting projects, in addition to their development, they require monitoring. Which requires Council Officer time. It is likely a financial cap would be set, establishing a maximum limit of Council investment in carbon offsetting both cumulatively and per tonne. This will assist in securing suitable value for money in carbon offsetting projects.

Strategic Fit

The Council must consider whether it offsets ahead of the 2030 target for Council emissions by using a projection of estimated residual emissions. This option invests in initiatives at an earlier point, acknowledging that offsetting projects will take time to identify, deliver, monitor, and realise their benefits. Alternatively, the Council may choose to allow for the maximum possible time for decarbonisation measures to be implemented, only then investing in offsets from 2030. This aligns with Council criteria to only implement offsetting when all reasonably practicable decarbonisation has been undertaken, leaving a small percentage of emissions to be mitigated to reach zero. However, this option risks not realising benefits until after 2030.

Locality

Offsetting in countries where it is difficult to verify the projects and their impact has been subject to increasing scrutiny. As a local government entity with limited global reach, it is unlikely we will fund offsetting projects outside of the UK. It is more likely that we will need to determine whether to offset at national, regional or local (borough) level, or a combination of these options.

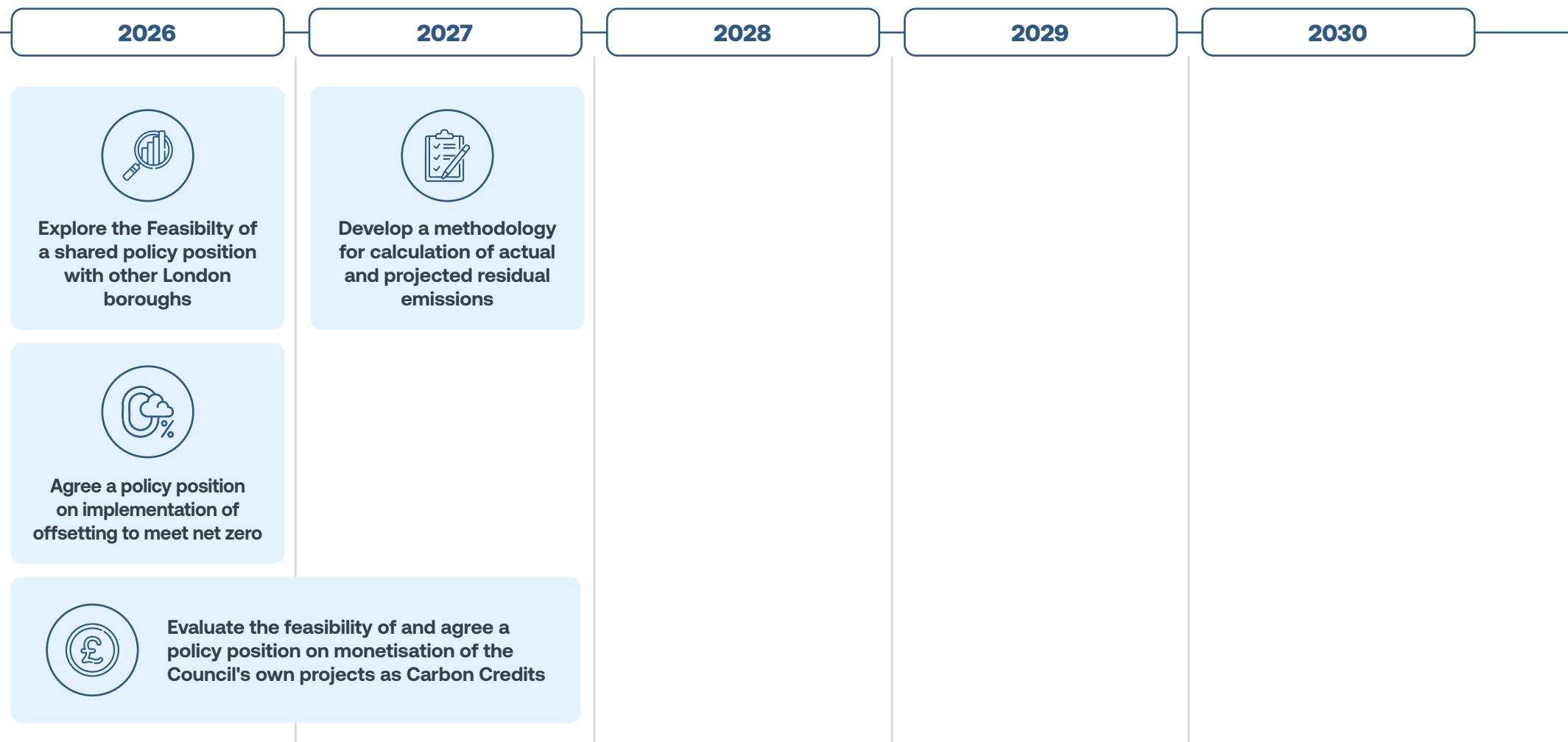
External Credibility

Should the Council pursue offsetting, all projects must be verified, offer permanence relating to long-term emissions reduction, and be additional to current and planned decarbonisation initiatives. Clear transparency, reporting and methodology for emissions calculations will help to mitigate potential reputational challenges including accusations of greenwashing.

Carbon Offsetting - Key Activities Timeline

Key Actions 2026-2030

KEY: Asset Action Enabling Action



Key terms and Abbreviations

Air Source Heat Pump	Low carbon renewable heating solution that takes heat from the air outside and uses it to warm a building or provide hot water.
Building Management System	Smart control system for buildings that manages heating, lighting, ventilation, and energy use.
Carbon insetting	Reducing emissions directly within a company's own supply chain or operations, such as supporting suppliers to switch to clean energy.
Carbon offsetting	Paying for projects (like tree planting or renewable energy) that cancel out the emissions a company cannot avoid.
Circular Economy	An approach where products, materials, and resources are reused, repaired, or recycled for as long as possible, instead of being thrown away — reducing waste and protecting natural resources.
Community Municipal Investment	A way for local people to invest money directly into council-led green projects, such as solar panels or electric buses.
District Heat Network	Low-carbon energy system that supplies heat from a central source called the energy centre, to buildings through a network of pipes carrying hot water or steam. Heat network zoning is the process where heat networks will be selected by the national government as the lowest cost, low-carbon heating option in designated areas.
Environment Agency (EA)	National organisation responsible for protecting and improving the environment in England. It manages flood risks, monitors water quality, and helps reduce pollution.
EPC (Energy Performance Certificate)	A document that rates how energy-efficient a building is, shown on a scale from A (very efficient) to G (very inefficient).
ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)	A way of measuring how responsibly a company operates: its impact on the environment, treatment of people, and quality of management.
Fleet Management System	A computer system that helps companies keep track of their vehicles, drivers, and fuel use to work more efficiently.
Fluvial flooding	This occurs when rivers overflow after heavy or prolonged rainfall, flooding nearby land. The Environment Agency manages and monitors these risks for main rivers in the UK.
Full asset decarbonisation	Replacing or upgrading buildings so they no longer rely on fossil fuels and improving the energy and thermal efficiency.

Key terms and Abbreviations

Grant funding	Money given (not loaned) by a government body, charity, or organisation to support a specific project or goal, such as improving energy efficiency or protecting the environment.
Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV)	Large trucks or lorries designed to carry heavy loads, usually over 7.5 tonnes.
Hydro-treated Vegetable Oil (HVO)	A type of renewable fuel made from waste vegetable oils and fats, used as a cleaner alternative to diesel. Hounslow only use waste vegetable oils instead of oil derived directly from the food supply chain.
Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)	A type of engine that burns fuel (like petrol or diesel) inside the engine to power vehicles.
Just Transition	The shift to a low-carbon, environmentally sustainable economy in a way that is fair and inclusive for everyone.
OBc	An Outline Business Case (OBc) is a structured proposal that justifies the initiation of a project or investment. It provides a high-level overview and assessment of potential solutions to a problem or challenge, including the rationale, benefits, costs, and risks of the recommended solution.
PSDS (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme)	A UK government fund that helps public buildings (like schools, hospitals, and council offices) switch to low-carbon heating and energy systems.
Recycling and Reduction Plan (RRP)	A plan developed by local councils to set out key actions for reducing waste and increasing recycling in their area. These plans support local efforts to cut the amount of waste we produce, especially food waste, and help meet the Mayor of London's city-wide targets — including halving food waste per person and recycling 65% of household and business waste by 2030.
Refuse Collection Vehicle (RCV)	A bin lorry used to collect household waste and recycling.
Residual emissions	The small amount of emissions that remain after a company has reduced everything it reasonably can.
Retrofit	Upgrading buildings or equipment with new technology to make them more energy-efficient
S106 Carbon Offset Fund	Collected from developers through Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to fund local carbon reduction projects where developments cannot provide the required carbon savings on-site.
Scope one emissions	Emissions released directly from a company's own sources, like fuel burned in company vehicles or on-site boilers.

Key terms and Abbreviations

Scope two emissions	Emissions created from the energy a company purchases, such as electricity or heating from an energy provider.
Scope three emissions	Emissions caused indirectly through a company's activities, such as business travel, suppliers' operations, or how products are used.
SEP (Strategic Energy Partnership)	A long-term agreement where organisations (such as councils, businesses, or energy companies) work together to plan and deliver energy projects. The aim is usually to cut carbon emissions, and improve local energy systems.
SMEs (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises)	Businesses with fewer than 250 employees
Solar PV	Solar Photovoltaic Panels, a low carbon renewable technology which captures sunlight and turn it into electricity for homes or businesses.
Surface water flooding	This occurs when heavy rainfall cannot soak into the ground or drain away fast enough. This is more common in urban areas with lots of hard, paved surface that is impermeable.
Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)	A way of managing rainwater during heavy rainfall by slowing the flow of water into drains, reducing the risk of flooding, and allowing more water to be soak naturally into the ground. SuDS can take many forms including rain gardens, swales, green roofs, and wetlands.
Sustainable lifestyles	Ways of living, social behaviours and choices, that minimise environmental degradation (use of natural resources, CO2 emissions, waste and pollution) while supporting equitable socio-economic development and better quality of life for all.
Thames Estuary 2100 Plan (TE2100)	A long-term plan by the Environment Agency that sets out how to manage and reduce tidal flood risk along the Thames Estuary up to the year 2100, including maintaining and upgrading the Thames Barrier and other flood defences.
Tidal flooding	This occurs when very high tides or storm surges push sea water onto land. In Hounslow, the risk is low because of the Thames Tidal Defences, including the Thames Barrier, which protect against major storm events.
Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV)	A vehicle that produces very little pollution from its exhaust, such as electric or hybrid cars.
'Well-to-tank' emissions	Emissions created when fuel is extracted, transported, refined and delivered before it reaches our vehicles.

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