

Climate Local Bedford

Our progress during 2014/2015

Since signing up to Climate Local on the 26th of October 2012, we have made the following progress towards achieving the commitments and actions we pledged on the 15th of May 2013:

Low Carbon Pathways

Commitment: We will aim to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by the aspirational target of 40% by 2015 (from a 2009/10 baseline)		
Progress: Considerable progress has been made over the past year towards the carbon emission target through the projects implemented under the Council's RE:FIT scheme.		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
[Insert the specific actions from your plan]	[Provide a summary of your progress in achieving this action to date. Refer to the measures and timescales you included in your plan. Include delivery outcomes and direct/indirect benefits resulting from the action where appropriate. Use statistics and tangible outputs, and include web links to documents and online information if available.]	[Include any lessons learnt that may be useful to others wishing to implement a similar action. What went well, what would you do differently? Were there any significant barriers to delivering this action? If so, how did you overcome them?]
We will continue to implement the Council's Carbon Management Plan, through the RE:FIT programme.	Tranche 1 of the RE:FIT scheme has been successfully completed. This has included the installation of a biomass boiler at Borough Hall (the Council's headquarters), the installation of solar panels across 6 sites, as well as many energy efficiency measures. Details on some of the projects completed to date can be found here: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/energy_and_carbon_management/refit.aspx The Council is about to embark on Tranche 2 of the RE:FIT programme.	Owing to the scale of the projects included within Tranche 1 of the RE:FIT scheme, there were some delays in its completion owing to the complexities of implementation. However, through officer work with our provider, drawing upon industry expertise and by having regular contract meetings, problems have been overcome and the scheme, successfully delivered. Lessons learnt will inform Tranche 2.
We will promote the installation of renewable energy generating technology in schools and	The Council's Sustainability Team continues to support schools with any renewable energy initiatives they are looking to progress. Advice on the schemes available, together with guidance on the Feed in Tariff scheme, has helped schools to decide whether to pursue installations at their sites.	The Sustainability Team continues to respond to any queries they receive from schools. In future, the Team are looking to be more proactive in promoting renewable technologies, utilising existing communication channels such as a school magazine and it's webpages.

<p>Council buildings.</p>	<p>Through the RE:FIT scheme, the Council has installed a biomass boiler into Borough Hall, the Council's headquarters. It has also installed 6 solar PV systems. Details of these initiatives can be found here: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/energy_and_carbon_management/refit.aspx</p>	<p>The biomass boiler scheme has been challenging, owing to retrofitting this complex technology into a building with an old heating system. Through the work of Council officers and our Energy Performance Contract provider, drawing on industry expertise, all problems were resolved and the technology successfully implemented.</p>
<p>We will continue to promote the Climate Change Fund to schools.</p>	<p>The fund has continued to be promoted to schools through communication channels such as the Aspire newsletter, the dedicated newsletter for the schools in the Borough.</p>	<p>Schools need flexibility on application deadlines to enable them to install measures during school holidays.</p>
<p>We will encourage schools to register with Eco-Schools.</p>	<p>The Council signposts schools to the Eco-Schools scheme by providing information on the Council's webpages: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/eco-schools.aspx</p>	<p>The Council continues to support the Eco-Schools initiative by sharing information on the scheme. The Council links up with Keep Britain Tidy to keep abreast of any new initiatives or changes to the scheme.</p>
<p>We will promote the efficient use of energy and water by Council staff through the continued development of the awareness raising campaign and the Energy Champion network.</p>	<p>Pop-up banners are displayed in prominent places around the Council's headquarters building, reminding staff to consider 'watt a difference' they can make to save energy and reduce waste. Information is also displayed on the Council's intranet pages in the form of the Council's Green Office Guide.</p> <p>Communications are circulated to staff to and Energy Champions on the work completed by the Authority to save energy and water and to coincide with national campaign days such as Big Energy Saving Week (October 2014) and Green Office Week (May 2015).</p>	<p>Continual reminders to save energy and water prompt staff to switch off equipment. An update to the Council's Green Office Guide and further communication on schemes, such as the RE:FIT programme, will be undertaken to further heighten staff awareness on the work the Council is completing, keeping the messages fresh and new.</p>

Commitment: We will aim to reduce the water usage across all Council buildings by 20% by 2015 (this will reduce the carbon footprint from water usage by 24 tonnes of CO₂) and reduce wastewater across all Council buildings by 20% by 2015.

Progress: The Council is working towards implementing water efficiency measures identified in the water strategy.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>We will promote and advise the public, schools and council staff to reduce water consumption.</p>	<p>The Council has begun to develop a handbook and a checklist for staff, explaining the considerations and activities that should be made and undertaken to reduce water within the workplace. Once completed, this will be shared with schools and residents.</p> <p>Water Butts: A subsidy was provided for 2014-15 to lower the price of a water butt kit to £30 to encourage residents to buy and install them in their gardens. The subsidy, with a lower price of £24.99 has been put in place for 2015/16 and has been promoted to residents via the Council's website: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/water_conservation</p> <p>World Water Day: To coincide with this national awareness day, an information stand was held on 25th March 2015. Water saving measures including Showersaves from Eon and cistern water displacement devices 'Save-a-flushes' from Anglian Water, were distributed: www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_news/archived_news/march_2015/world_water_day.aspx</p>	<p>The Council is working closely with Anglian Water to develop resources to share with staff and schools. The Council has received significant support from Anglian Water to develop a plan to save water.</p>
<p>We will develop a water strategy, outlining how the Council will reduce its water consumption in line with the Water Promise it has already signed.</p>	<p>In January 2015, Bedford Borough Council adopted a Water Strategy, which outlines how the Council will manage and improve water efficiency across all areas of activity.</p> <p>The Strategy outlines the Council's target to reduce water consumption by 20% by 2016, in line with the Water Promise signed in collaboration with Anglian Water.</p>	<p>By liaising with colleagues, a practical water strategy has been produced. Officers and managers were consulted to ensure the Council had by in from all departments. The Strategy is a working document and will continue to be built upon as and when new opportunities are identified.</p>

<p>Implement the Water Strategy to reduce the Council's water consumption.</p>	<p>The Council has begun implementing its Water Strategy. It has undertaken a review of all water tariffs to ensure it is paying the correct rates for water- this activity alone automatically saved the Council approximately £2,500.</p> <p>The Council has moved to consolidated billing, making water consumption more transparent and data more manageable.</p> <p>Toilet refurbishments, the inclusion of rainwater harvesting into refurbishment programmes, water audits of buildings and monitoring of water consumption data are all contributing to the reducing the Council's water usage and improving understanding of where water is used and where savings can be made.</p>	<p>By working with Anglian Water we have been able to draw on industry expertise and this has enabled us to implement some quick wins. The Sustainability Team continue to liaise closely with its water supplier to monitor water consumption and quickly deal with any queries that arise.</p>
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Commitment: We will promote and encourage the adoption of energy saving schemes and will seek to develop relationships with partners to support the development of these schemes to maintain and improve the condition of all existing housing.

Progress: A number of events, presentations, talks and training sessions have been delivered to raise awareness of advice and schemes to help reduce energy consumption.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>We will promote the carbon reduction and financial benefits of reducing energy consumption by improving energy efficiency of homes through the installation of insulation measures.</p>	<p>Awareness raising events, talks and presentations to advise residents on how to be more energy efficient have been held throughout the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13/05/14: Landlords event - stand at Great Denham Golf Club. • 04/06/14: Ageing Well Exhibition stand at the Corn Exchange. • 31/07/14: Spoke about fuel poverty and the Safe, Healthy and Well leaflet at the Older Persons Partnership meeting. • 11/09/14: Talk delivered on energy and water efficiency, help available and how to switch energy supplier to Alzheimers Carers group at St Andrews Church Hall. • 25/09/14: Information stand at Flu Clinic at St Andrews Church Hall • 25/09/14: Cold Homes stand at Parish & Town Council 	

Network Conference

- 20-25/10/14: Big Energy Saving Week - stand on 22/10/14 in Howard Centre Shopping Centre.
- 26/11/14: Landlords Forum - stand at Howard Room
- 04/02/15: Cold Homes Week - stand in Howard Centre
- 25/03/15: World Water Day - stand in Howard Centre
- 17/04/15: Stewartby Switching Event with Susan CAB + Amanda SE - for Cllr Hill. Produced leaflet for drop.
- 28/05/15: Switching Event @St Marks Church with SW from CAB - for MF of Brickhill Energy group and promoted his Open Home event on the previous Sunday.
- 03/06/15: Landlords Forum - stand at Howard Room
- 10/06/15: Ageing Well Exhibition stand @Corn Exchange

Advice is regularly updated on the following webpages:

www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/i_am_a_resident/energy_efficiency and www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/reducing_energy_bills.

Keeping Cosy: Pilot Project with Environmental Health and Public Health: During 2014, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) inspecting Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) were trained on key signs of cold homes, and fact sheets were developed for landlords and tenants on energy efficiency and efficient use of storage heaters. During the Healthy Homes pilot project, visits were made to HMOs and other properties in response to cold home complaints. The EHOs provided advice and fact sheets to the landlords and tenants on how to improve the energy efficiency of the properties and how to use energy efficiently.

Warm Homes Project: Fuel Poverty project with Public Health: Following a Focus Report on Fuel Poverty being requested and delivered to the Health & Wellbeing Board in December 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board resolved to fund (£100,000) in March 2015, a proof-of-concept pilot for a warm homes service in Bedford Borough, targeting the people most at risk of poor health because they are living in a cold home.

	<p>Safe Healthy and Well leaflet: In partnership with Public Health, the Safe, Healthy and Well leaflet was updated in October 2014. The aim of the leaflet is to make it easier to provide information, signpost for further support or refer vulnerable residents for effective interventions such as insulation and heating improvements, advice on energy bills, uptake of benefits or other financial support, security measures and services available to improve health and wellbeing. The objective is to reduce fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in the Borough through distribution of the leaflet through front-line and home-visiting staff. More information and the leaflet are available at: www.bedford.gov.uk/safehealthywell</p>	
<p>We will promote the Green Deal and Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) to the homeowners and private tenants of the Borough to increase the Government's scheme's uptake and to encourage the improvement in the energy efficiency of homes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Deal and ECO scheme is promoted at all presentations and information stands. • The council's website has a detailed section on the Green Deal and ECO – with links to further information and leaflets: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/green_deal • The Safe, Healthy and Well leaflet includes information and contact details for further help with the Green Deal and ECO: www.bedford.gov.uk/safehealthywell. • 980 Green Deal Assessments were lodged and 4 Green Deal Plans are 'live' in Bedford Borough up to 31st March 2015. • Cashback vouchers - 39 Cashback vouchers were issued in Bedford Borough up to 31st March 2015. • 17 Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF) voucher payments were made in Bedford Borough up to 31st March 2015. • In Bedford Borough, 1,090 measures were installed under the Carbon Saving Target (CSO), 495 measures under Carbon Savings Community (CSCO) and 689 under the Affordable Warmth (HHCRO) target, up to 31st March 2015 (total of 2,274 measures). 	

<p>We will investigate the opportunities to work as a Partner to a Green Deal Provider to increase the energy efficiency of the Borough's homes and encourage take-up of renewable energy.</p>	<p>The Council was considering its position and whether it would wish to work with a Green Deal provider – until the announcement on 23/07/15 by DECC that In light of low take-up and concerns about industry standards there will be no further funding to the Green Deal Finance Company.</p>	
<p>We will promote the help available through ECO (Energy Companies Obligation) Affordable Warmth, to eligible residents of the Borough.</p>	<p>The ECO is promoted at all presentations and information stands. The Council's website has a detailed section on the ECO – with links to further information and leaflets: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/energy_companies_obligation.</p>	
<p>We will work with partners to promote ECO (Energy Company Obligation) Carbon Saving Communities to deliver area-based schemes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council continues to work with a local surveying company to engage with residents who may be eligible for ECO and refers them on for installation of measures where appropriate. • During 2014/15 the Council's partner delivered x39 loft insulations, x47 cavity wall insulations and 25 properties had both measures installed under ECO in Bedford Borough. 	

Commitment: We will promote householder and community action on reducing carbon emissions in the Borough.

Progress: A number of events, presentations, talks and training sessions have been delivered to raise awareness of advice and schemes to which can help householder to take action to reduce energy consumption and therefore carbon emissions.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>We will work with residents, households</p>	<p>Awareness raising events, talks and presentations to advise residents on how to be more energy efficient have been held throughout the year, as detailed above, and advice is available</p>	

<p>and communities of the Borough to promote energy conserving behaviour through events and schemes.</p>	<p>at: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/i_am_a_resident/energy_efficiency and www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/reducing_energy_bills.</p> <p>The DECC statistics: 'Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities 2013' – show a reduction of carbon emissions from 6 tonnes per capita to 5.7, and from 2.2 tonnes of CO₂ from domestic emissions to 2.0.</p>	
<p>We will raise awareness of the carbon reduction and financial benefits (Feed In Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive) of installing renewable energy generating technology to householders of the Borough, to encourage small scale installations.</p>	<p>Renewable energy technology is discussed at awareness raising events, talks and presentations to advise residents on how to choose the most suitable technology for their home and how they can benefit from the FIT and RHI.</p> <p>The Council's website has detailed sections on renewable energy and the latest on the FIT: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/feed_in_tariff1 and RHI: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/renewable_heat_incentive</p> <p>Sub-national Feed-in Tariff Statistics June 15: There are x1,406 domestic PV installations, x8 domestic wind turbines and x2 domestic MicroCHP systems installed in Bedford Borough. Total = 1,416 installations out of 65,671 households.</p>	
<p>We will continue to support community groups to install carbon reducing measures at community buildings through the Mayor's Climate Change Fund.</p>	<p>The fund was widely promoted over the past year to encourage a high number of applications. Various schools and organisations were supported throughout the application process and encouraged to install measures that will considerably reduce their building's carbon emissions. More information on the fund: www.bedford.gov.uk/ccf.</p>	

Commitment: We will work with households in the Borough to reduce energy dependency and alleviate fuel poverty.

Progress: An Affordable Warmth Strategy has been developed and various actions from the updated action plan have been implemented and continue to be implemented.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
We will continue to deliver 'Winter Warmth' talks to groups vulnerable to the cold, and arrange Fuel Poverty training for front-line staff to raise awareness of how to stay warm in winter and the support available to residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 02/07/14: Fuel poverty training delivered to x6 Private Sector Housing Environmental Health Officers.• 11/09/14: Talk delivered on energy and water efficiency, help available and how to switch energy supplier to Alzheimers Carers group at St Andrews Church Hall.• 24/09/15: Training delivered on how to recognise fuel poverty and refer patients for help to x13 nurses @HEAT session at Kings House, Ampthill Rd.• A webpage on how to keep warm at home – is regularly updated: www.bedford.gov.uk/keepingwarm.	
We will develop an Affordable Warmth Strategy with local partners.	The Action Plan for the Affordable Warmth Strategy 2013-16 was updated and approved by the Sustainability Committee in September 2014.	

Waste:

<p>Commitment: We will minimise waste sent to landfill from the council, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from waste collection operations and aim to recycle 60% of the Borough's waste by 2020.</p>		
<p>Progress: Efficiencies in the collection services have been found using new in-cab software which also navigates crews around their rounds. Kerbside battery collection rolled out the whole Borough, 5273kg collected to date. Improvements made to glass mini recycling sites across the Borough. Communications campaign to be built upon to encourage residents to recycle and reduce their waste further. Recycling rate consistent in the past two years.</p>		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>We will promote the reduction of waste within the Council and continue to encourage the recycling of all materials possible.</p>	<p>Information on what to recycle in the Council's bins was circulated to staff during Green Office Week (GOW) May 2015.</p>	
<p>We will continue to optimise collection vehicle routes to improve the efficiency and time taken to make waste collection and passenger transport journeys.</p>	<p>Regular collection round reviews continue to be undertaken to maximise the efficiency of the fleet of waste collection vehicles. The Council's In Cab monitoring system now has a satellite navigation function which helps crews navigate around their rounds to ensure that routes are performed consistently and efficiency maximised.</p>	<p>Teething issues with the introduction of the new In Cab software system led to delays in utilising all of the systems functionality.</p>
<p>We will continue to develop new recycling schemes, undertake improvements to current collection schemes and promotional activities to encourage residents to recycle 60% of their</p>	<p>Promotional activities for the period focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composting – promotions of the councils subsidised composter scheme Real Nappies – promotion of the councils cash back scheme <p>Improvements have also been made to the mini recycling site glass collection scheme with the introduction of new 'bell' style</p>	<p>Periodic communication about existing schemes is required to serve as a reminder to residents.</p>

waste.	<p>banks which reduce noise and provide greater capacity.</p> <p>The percentage of household waste recycled has remained consistent compared to the previous year (13-14).</p> <p>Kerbside batteries collection – roll out of service to whole of the Borough in order to collect domestic batteries. Batteries diverted from the black general waste bin. 2014/15 = 4056kg collected, 2015/16 1217kg (to date).</p> <p>A communications campaign is being put together to encourage residents to recycle more of their waste. The campaign will include radio, Council owned advert sites, social media and press releases, rebranding of the RCV's and some outreach work in low performing areas.</p>	<p>Delays in creating artwork which will be used as an overarching theme throughout the campaign. Artwork and “slogan” to be confirmed by members before going to print, once confirmed the campaign will go ahead through avenues listed.</p> <p>As this is the first year of a structured communications plan this will be developed and evaluated for successes into next year so that an annual communications campaign can be developed and implemented.</p>
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Procurement:

<p>Commitment: Promote the use of sustainable procurement within the Council</p>		
<p>Progress: Sustainable procurement continued to be an important consideration within the Councils tendering activity during 2014/15. Particular progress was made in relation to local purchasing and engagement of the local market. The Commercial Hub focussed attention on delivery of sustainable benefits within individual tendering activity. More focus will be given to the development of the Councils sustainable procurement strategies and policy during 2015/16.</p>		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>Review and update the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy to encourage low energy</p>	<p>The Councils Procurement Strategy has been updated to incorporate more sustainable purchasing and now provides greater promotion of local purchasing. The Commercial Hub have continued to develop it's e-procurement solution and now have over 20% of local suppliers registered to do</p>	

<p>and more sustainable purchasing options and also promotion of local purchasing where possible.</p>	<p>business with the Council.</p> <p>The Commercial Hub has met with a number of local providers to understand where and how Council procurement can be improved.</p> <p>The supplier selection process now incorporates criteria to fully test sustainability commitment.</p>	
<p>Implement the Social Value Act assessment matrix, which includes an Environmental section covering: controlled consumption, biodiversity, carbon reduction and sustainability, and apply to all new Council procurements to reduce the impact on the environment.</p>	<p>It is a statutory requirement to test social value as part of all services procurement above the designated OJEU threshold. However the Commercial Hub look to test compliance on a more frequent basis and tend to examine commitment to social value for below OJEU threshold procurements. Whilst the implementation of a Social Value Act assessment Matrix is still on the Commercial Hubs “to-do” list, it has not been a priority during 14/15. The focus has been on delivery of social value benefits through individual procurement exercises some notable successes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New enforcement agents contract, commitment to promote local business through employment of local supply chain and employment opportunities including apprenticeships to long-term unemployed or people coming out of education and fund local charities. • YMCA Bedfordshire (recently won the Housing Related Provision of Young People and Single Homeless) have committed to create opportunities for young people to enter vocational courses through links to local colleges and through the company’s relationship with The Prince’s Trust. • Mowsbury Park and Bedford Park Pavilion – we have undertaken procurement exercises resulting in new café businesses setting up in previously empty buildings (and income to the Council). • The New Bus Station incorporated commitments from the appointed contractor to deliver community benefits for example use of supply chain and local employment opportunity. • The recently completed tender for young people has resulted in the appointed supplier offering interview advice, 	

	<p>CV writing guidance, links to local colleges and appointment of a youth participation officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedford Western Bypass (Northern Section) – in addition to the benefits relating to the bypass itself i.e. better road links, alleviation of congestion etc., Breheny made a commitment to employ local labour where possible and have already recruited locally a site secretary and a site operative position through our Jobs Hub. 	
Develop procurement projects to further reduce the Council's impact on the environment e.g. Grey Fleet Review.	Upon review this action is now considered to be integral to the actions above.	

Transport Policy:

Commitment: We will promote greener travel behaviours and encourage use of more sustainable modes of transport within the council and wider community.		
Progress: Significant progress has been made in relation to actively encouraging sustainable transport mode use. This has been done working with internal partners to deliver specific promotional events and by engaging internal and external partners in key high profile projects.		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
We will produce a Cycle Delivery Plan to set out the range of improvements	This will be based on LTP cycling strategy and Government policy guidance, and will be updated to include Public Health issues and priorities	
We will promote walking and cycling through investment and infrastructure.	<p>2014-15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre cycling permitted outside shopping hours (6pm – 9am) on experimental basis • Town Centre finger posts upgraded and updated • Legible Bedford displays at 5 key locations • Bus station to train station footprints 	These schemes were funded from last year of LSTF. Delivery of cycling and walking schemes is ideally delivered through separate funding streams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Street first ever turbo-style roundabout completed, including off-road cycling Zebras and slower vehicle speeds • Newnham Street contraflow • Britannia Bridge completed and opened 	
We will complete the Bedford Urban Cycle Network Plan.	Plan completed. A number of outstanding issues	
We will develop and sign the urban cycle network leading to completion of the routes included in the Bedford Urban Cycle Network Plan.	No progress	Delivery adversely affected by competing priorities in 2014/15. Funding streams uncertain for delivery in 2015/16
We will monitor the number of walking and cycling journeys to the Town Centre and on the rest of the cycle network via automatic cycle counters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual monitoring of Bedford Inner Cordon for walking and cycling. • Annual monitoring of walking and cycling journeys to Bedford Railway station 	We are developing a more comprehensive data collection system which will collect and store cycle data in the same place as vehicular data
<p>We will support the development of local electric vehicle charging point infrastructure.</p> <p>We will actively collate in-house knowledge of the system performance of the existing Electric</p>	<p>No further new posts have been installed since the last update.</p> <p>Usage figures for Bedford Borough posts installed under the Plugged in Places project are regularly collected. There is evidence of shifts of usage towards other posts. Usage is still limited overall and so just one new and regular user can shift patterns of usage across the system.</p>	This is in part due to the pace of change in this area of technology and adjusting roles and responsibilities. Some vehicle manufacturers are adopting a 'whole vehicle' approach to servicing their EV customers, which includes the provision of and access to charging posts. This invited us as a local authority to take a step back and explore the potential need to develop any further EV infrastructure more collaboratively with local businesses/employers and vehicle manufacturers so that any development is carried out in the appropriate wider context. We may review the action to better reflect the changing role of the local authority in installing further posts.

<p>vehicle infrastructure</p> <p>We will ensure that all Council owned infrastructure is integrated into primary highways maintenance practices.</p>	<p>The process of incorporating the EV infrastructure into the highway asset is underway.</p>	<p>These assets were acquired through a grant funded project promoted by a particular service area. This type of scenario does not always lend itself to full engagement across all stakeholders from the outset and therefore wider stakeholder relationships essential to the ongoing successful maintenance of the infrastructure have had to be built post installation.</p>
<p>We will work proactively with partners to understand and respond to demand for electric vehicle use by developing a system to meet these needs as part of a broader multi-modal transport offer.</p>	<p>A key aspiration is to create new links with local EV car dealers and with the local EV using community. Small scale workshop approaches to gather user experience are being discussed with partners.</p>	<p>Data from post usage is demonstrating the importance of the location of posts in relation to nature of trips being made by users.</p>
<p>Participants in events and regular programmes run by Sports Development will be advised to contact others to set up car sharing where possible.</p>	<p>We have made participants aware of this option and advised of the need to share if possible. The groups form natural friendships anyway and sharing becomes something that occurs as a result of this rather than our proactive approach.</p>	<p>Ask all participants at the start of the course (or as part of the booking process) to tick if they agree to a having details shared with others as part of the process</p>

Commitment: We will support the sustainable development process by continuing work with internal and external partners to ensure new developments are accessible by sustainable modes of transport.

Progress: The Transport Policy team continues to be encouraged with progress to date against this commitment and will continue to actively seek opportunities to further integrate service areas and processes with internal and external partners to achieve higher levels of integration.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Review the functions of the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) with key BBC partners in the context of its potential to assist in the delivery of sustainable economic growth and quality of life benefits.	Undertake conversations with key partners within the authority. Publish reviews as appropriate of progress on Climate Local/LTP3 Actions to align with Climate local reporting and significant committee cycles.	Ongoing
We will ensure that high quality cycle parking standards are applied in new developments.	Parking Standards for Sustainable Communities: Design and Good Practice CPD	Adopted Sept 2014
Transport Assessments are now an integrated requirement of planning applications and are assessed within the planning system. Transport Policy and Highways Development Control will continue to provide Sustainable Transport advice and	Evidenced continuous improvement of procedures to ensure the quality of Transport Assessments and Travel Plans such that data and information collated inform wider transport data systems and models Contribution towards highways and transport schemes.	Ongoing

<p>comments on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans when required by the planning process.</p>		
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Transport Operations:

<p>Commitment: We will identify opportunities to reduce the carbon emissions from our transport fleet.</p>		
<p>Progress: We are maintaining good ongoing progress using existing processes and procedures in relation to route optimisation and vehicle procurement. The successful implementation of new vehicle tracker software is now enabling us to identify and improve driving techniques in order to achieve greater fuel efficiency.</p>		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>We will complete route-optimisation projects to improve the efficiency and time taken to make passenger transport journeys.</p>	<p>All routes optimised. Ongoing. (As demand changes constantly, we conduct a full review of our passenger transport network every year, with the aim of minimising client time on vehicles, as well reducing carbon emissions.)</p>	
<p>We will promote fuel efficient driving techniques among staff using vehicle telematics to measure and inform how the vehicle fleet is being driven, and how efficiency can be improved.</p>	<p>All Environment Directorate vehicles are now fitted with tracker software; this now provides data which is being used to investigate and improve driving techniques, in liaison with drivers and their supervisors. Ongoing.</p>	

<p>We will purchase and invest in greener vehicles across the Council's fleet where this makes good business logic e.g. electric vehicles, electric bins lifts for refuse collection vehicles.</p>	<p>An environmental specification is part of all tender arrangements. Ongoing.</p>	
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Planning:

<p>Commitment: Promote energy efficiency and a low carbon community through the planning system.</p>		
<p>Progress: This is being pursued using Local Plan policies, although this is changing as Government now favours a national approach through Building Regulations.</p>		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>Adopt planning policies that actively encourage renewable and decentralised energy generation.</p>	<p>The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policy AD2 requires new residential developments to aim for zero carbon emissions (and achieve at least Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 on site), whilst non-domestic developments should achieve BREEAM very good standard. This is in addition to existing policy which requires a reduction in carbon emissions 10% greater than current Building Regulations (policy CP26 of Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan).</p> <p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination. Its policies will conform to Government guidance.</p>	<p>Establishment of a Carbon Offset Fund (needed for operation of the off-site element of the zero carbon policy requirement) has not been progressed because of the Government's announcement in response to the Housing Standards Review that energy performance standards should in future only be set in Building Regulations. This was expected to happen alongside the introduction of the Government's zero carbon homes policy in late 2016, however in July 2015 the Government announced that it will not proceed with the zero carbon scheme but will keep energy efficiency standards under review. Further information is awaited. In the meantime the Council is continuing to require reduced carbon emissions however this is restricted by Government to the equivalent of Code for Sustainable Homes level 4. The Code for Sustainable Homes itself has been withdrawn.</p>
<p>Use planning policy to require developers to</p>	<p>The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policy AD2 requires new residential developments to aim for zero carbon emissions (and achieve at least Code</p>	<p>Establishment of a Carbon Offset Fund (needed for operation of the off-site element of the zero carbon policy requirement) has not been progressed because of the Government's</p>

<p>build homes and other buildings with high energy standards.</p>	<p>for Sustainable Homes level 4 on site), whilst non-domestic developments should achieve BREEAM very good standard. This is in addition to existing policy which requires a reduction in carbon emissions 10% greater than current Building Regulations (policy CP26 of Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan).</p> <p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination. Its policies will conform to Government guidance.</p>	<p>announcement in response to the Housing Standards Review that energy performance standards should in future only be set in Building Regulations. This was expected to happen alongside the introduction of the Government's zero carbon homes policy in late 2016, however in July 2015 the Government announced that it will not proceed with the zero carbon scheme but will keep energy efficiency standards under review. Further information is awaited. In the meantime the Council is continuing to require reduced carbon emissions however this is restricted by Government to the equivalent of Code for Sustainable Homes level 4. The Code for Sustainable Homes itself has been withdrawn.</p>
<p>Encourage developers to build homes with low embodied energy.</p>	<p>The Government's announcement in response to the Housing Standards Review means that energy performance standards will in future be set in Building Regulations.</p>	
<p>Establish policies that encourage developers to build in locations that will encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.</p>	<p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.</p>	
<p>Establish policies that help support low carbon heating networks.</p>	<p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination. Its policies will conform to Government guidance.</p>	
<p>Use s106 or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to promote low carbon communities.</p>	<p>The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policy AD2 requires new residential developments to aim for zero carbon emissions (and achieve at least Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 on site), the off-site element of which would be achieved through s106 contributions to a Carbon Offset Fund.</p>	<p>Establishment of a Carbon Offset Fund has not been progressed because of the Government's announcement in response to the Housing Standards Review that energy performance standards should in future only be set in Building Regulations. This was expected to happen alongside the introduction of the Government's zero carbon homes policy in late 2016, however in July 2015 the Government announced</p>

		that it will not proceed with the zero carbon scheme but will keep energy efficiency standards under review. Further information is awaited. In the meantime the Council is continuing to require reduced carbon emissions however this is restricted by Government to the equivalent of Code for Sustainable Homes level 4. The Code for Sustainable Homes itself has been withdrawn.
Promote installation of infrastructure required for low carbon vehicles.	Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.	
Continue to enforce Building Regulation energy standards.	Ongoing commitment being achieved.	

Commitment: Explore opportunities for reducing carbon emissions through the natural environment.

Progress: This is being pursued through Local Plan policies.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Identify opportunities to improve green space and connectivity between sites to promote walking and cycling and that contribute to the emerging Bedford Green Wheel (BGW) network.	The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policies AD24, AD26, AD27, AD36 and AD39 protect and enhance green space, pedestrian and cyclist facilities.	

Economic Development:

<p>Commitment: We will work towards carbon emission reductions across the activities/outcomes of the work of the Economic Development Service.</p>		
<p>Progress: Useful results continue to be evidenced though these are relatively small scale in respect of the Borough's economy as a whole and are on the whole smaller in scale than last year. Nevertheless the ration of benefits to cost of input by the Council probably remains significantly positive.</p>		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Support growth of low carbon industry sector through local growth and inward investment (NB. priority in Bedford Economic Development Strategy).	Relocation and expansion support provided to a key local engineering business with significant role in low carbon sector. Positive outcome hopefully in 2015/16.	Ongoing lesson that specific sectors such as low carbon are difficult to target, having diverse requirements – office, manufacturing, distribution, generating sites ... Recognition, too, that there are often not the right sites/buildings available at the right time and that there is a need to look to bring the Council's own development sites forward in a way that addresses such issues.
Support local buying of goods and services.	11 Handmade in Bedford markets and 2 Bedford youth focussed markets held.	We have recognised that this is a limited activity and are broadening activity for instance to include preparation and publication of a local business directory in 2015/16 to support local inter-business trading.
Support low carbon business growth programmes.	23 individuals were supported by Wenta (in turn supported by the Council) to access a low carbon ERDF programme and 2 businesses were awarded a grant. The Grants4Growth low carbon business growth grant scheme has been promoted. 10 local businesses have taken up grants this year.	
Support Bedfordshire Local Nature Partnership's (LNP's) economy related agenda/activities	The Council's economic development role in the LNP's Management Steering Group has continued with agreement to an active role in action planning in 2015/16 focussing on the role of planning and development in respect of local nature.	It takes a long time to get new, large (e.g. Bedfordshire-wide) organisations (with next to no resources) up and running and delivering anything over and above/different from what is already being done.

Support membership of Green Business Network and event attendance.	Ongoing promotion of the Green Business Network and its events to local businesses and occasional attendance. 9 seminars held involving 50+ attendees from Bedford Borough and c.25 Bedford Borough members of the network.	
Include low carbon elements in town centre regeneration schemes.	As in previous years there has been extensive local/ sustainable sourcing and energy saving measures in High Street Town Heritage Initiative project contracts and further High Street detrafficking events. 1-4 St. Paul's Square, Bedford, was a successful project involving local contractors and the use of energy saving measures including different types of breathable insulation and secondary glazing.	

Climate Resilience

Commitment: We will develop our understanding of the Council's vulnerability to the changing climate.		
Progress: [Provide a high level summary of your progress in achieving this overarching commitment to date]		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
We will work to improve the resilience of the Council to the impacts of extreme weather by dealing with the risks identified in the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) and the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA 2012) and making the most of the opportunities.	Many of the impacts identified in the Local Climate Impacts Profile (www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/adapting_to_climate_change) have been addressed by the relevant departments and progress against these actions are included within the Council's Climate Local Commitments and Actions under 'Climate Resilience'.	

<p>We will continue to give presentations on climate change risks to Council staff, for example at Risk Management Workshops to raise awareness of adaptation actions to improve staff preparedness for providing business continuity during severe weather events.</p>	<p>None have been requested to be delivered during 2014/15.</p>	
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Commitment: We will raise awareness and help the communities of the Borough to improve their resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

Progress: Awareness of water efficiency, the risk of flooding through working with the community, has been carried out to ensure resilience to climate change impacts.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>We will raise the awareness of Borough residents and businesses of the impacts, risks and opportunities identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA 2012) and the need for climate change adaptation to increase resilience to a changing climate.</p>	<p>The Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) was produced and has made available on the council's website: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/adapting_to_climate_change</p> <p>Extreme weather events and their frequency are discussed during presentations on energy efficiency and winter warmth to demonstrate the link with carbon emissions.</p> <p>The Resilience team have identified communities at risk of flooding, and have undertaken a consultation with residents on surface water flooding to identify where it occurs in the Borough and how it can be managed.</p>	
<p>We will raise the awareness of Borough residents of the benefits</p>	<p>Water Butts: A subsidy was provided for 2014-15 to lower the price of a water butt kit to £30 to encourage residents to buy and install them in their gardens. The subsidy, with a lower</p>	

<p>of installing water saving measures and adopting water efficient behaviours to encourage more efficient use of water thereby helping to reduce water stress and alleviate the problems caused by drought.</p>	<p>price of £24.99 has been put in place for 2015/16 and has been promoted to residents via the Council's website: www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/sustainability/water_conservation</p> <p>World Water Day: To coincide with this national awareness day, an information stand was held on 25th March 2015. Water saving measures including Showersaves from Eon and cistern water displacement devices 'Save-a-flushes' from Anglian Water, were distributed: www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_news/archived_news/march_2015/world_water_day.aspx</p>	
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Flood Risk:

<p>Commitment: We will promote the uptake of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within the Borough.</p>		
<p>Progress: Following the new role as Statutory Consultee for surface water drainage the LLFA are working closely with developers and planning to promote the uptake of SuDs within the Borough.</p>		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>Develop a policy and design guide for Sustainable Drainage Systems.</p>	<p>On the 15th April 2015 Bedford Borough Council (BBC) as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) became a Statutory Consultee for surface water drainage on all major planning applications. Since this implementation date we have development procedures and work plans within the Council to work closely with the drainage engineers as part of the LLFA to comment and hopefully implement SuDs systems within all new major development within the Borough.</p>	<p>Further guidance, learning and discussion needs to be provided to developers specifically in the pre-application stage to incorporate SuDs into the initial design of the development.</p>
<p>Develop internal skills and expertise to support the uptake and management of SuDS.</p>	<p>A SuDs Steering Group has been developed and work plans detailing the flow of work through the different departments. We work closely with the drainage engineers for specific technical advice on applications.</p>	<p>Further work is needs to be developed on the longer term maintenance of SuDs and adoption if and where schemes are adopted.</p>

Commitment: We will promote community awareness, knowledge and education on flood resilience to improve the resilience of our communities to future climate impacts (in particular flooding).

Progress: We have been working extremely well with local communities through education, awareness and support to help communities help themselves in times of flooding.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Identify communities at greatest risk from flooding.	Considerable work has been completed through consultation and development of the local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Community events in partnership with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water have been completed, as well as discussions with residents affected by flooding.	It has been important to collate all this information and try and highlight it within the development of the LFRMS. This work has helped us identify and prioritise high risk flood areas.
Undertake community awareness and engagement campaign for local at-risk communities to improve understanding of risk and personal resilience to flooding.	Considerable work has been completed helping communities set up local flood groups aimed at helping communities help themselves. Resources have been provided to help set up these groups and we are looking at other communities where we can set up similar groups.	These groups have provided an invaluable recourse to their local communities and aid in provided flood risk information wherever possible. Localised resources are much more useful in a real flood response.
We will work with Environment Agency to encourage the uptake of property level protection.	We have worked with the Environment Agency in Riseley fitting property level protection to approximately 11 properties. Following the installation of the protection the Flood Group was set up as an additional resource in the community. Further projects in Upper Dean and Yielden are planned.	These groups have provided an invaluable recourse to their local communities and aid in provided flood risk information wherever possible. Localised resources are much more useful in a real flood response.

Commitment: We will improve our understanding of local risk and determine methods to protect our communities from the impacts of severe weather (i.e. flooding).

Progress: We are in the final stage of developing the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which looks at local flood risk across the Borough and determines methods to protect our communities from flooding.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
We will develop a strategy with all partners on how to manage flooding from local sources (surface water, ground water and ordinary water courses).	The LFRMS was sent out for its final consultation on 27 th March 2015, we are currently reviewing all the comments received to develop the final report which we hope to have published in Autumn 2015.	Partnership involvement has been key throughout the development of this strategy.

Planning:

Commitment: Build resilience into the Local Plan.

Progress: Both existing and proposed Local Plan policies taking account of this commitment.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Ensure that new developments avoid areas prone to flooding where possible; or in instances where development in the floodplain is necessary, that it is safe for its lifetime, resilient and does not increase flood risk	The latest available Bedford Borough Monitoring Report notes that the Environment Agency was consulted on 105 applications in the monitoring period (April 2013 – April 2014). Applications where potential objections were raised were the subject of conditions that addressed any concerns. No planning permissions were granted contrary to Environment Agency advice.	

elsewhere.		
Establish policies to reduce water use in new and existing buildings.	<p>The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policy AD2 requires new residential developments to achieve at least Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 (which sets water consumption limits).</p> <p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.</p>	<p>The Government's announcement in response to the Housing Standards Review means that the Code for Sustainable Homes has now been withdrawn. Water efficiency is now controlled (from 1 October 2015) through the Building Regulations which includes an optional requirement equivalent to the previous Code for Sustainable Homes level 4. However this optional requirement can only be imposed if there is a new Local Plan policy in place.</p>
Establish policies that support sustainable drainage systems.	<p>Existing policy already requires new development to consider sustainable construction techniques and limit any adverse effects on water quality and flooding (policy CP26 of Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan).</p> <p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered.–It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.</p>	<p>From April 2015 sustainable drainage systems are dealt with through the planning process which requires local planning authorities to ensure that SuDS are included on new developments (although there is an exemption for small developments).</p>
Establish policies that support green and blue infrastructure and promote green space and biodiversity.	<p>The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policies AD24 - AD28 promote and protect green space and biodiversity.</p> <p>Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.</p>	
Continue to enforce Building Regulation water consumption standards.	Ongoing commitment being achieved.	

Commitment: Promote the resilience of natural systems.

Progress: This commitment is being pursued through Local Plan policies.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
With reference to the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), establish policies to protect and enhance biodiversity sites, habitats and species.	Existing policy already protects and enhances biodiversity sites, habitats and species (policy CP25 of Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan). Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.	
With reference to the Borough's Green Infrastructure Plan (2009), establish policies to support the provision and management of accessible, multifunctional green infrastructure.	The Allocations and Designations Local Plan was adopted in July 2013. Policies AD24 - AD28 promote and protect green infrastructure. Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.	
Ensure that habitat diversity and function within development sites is maintained or compensated for.	Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.	
Specify types of development that may be appropriate in local	Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.	

Nature Improvement Areas to support and enhance biodiversity and habitats.		
Promote the use of trees and vegetation that prevent rapid run off and therefore protect areas from flooding.	Issues and options consultation for the new Local Plan commenced in January 2014 and scope of draft policies is being considered. It is expected that the new Local Plan will be published in 2016 for formal examination.	

Open Spaces:

Commitment: Ensure our estate including parks and recreation facilities are well-adapted to the changing climate.		
Progress: Effective working with developers has continued to be a significant way of keeping open spaces resilient to predicted changes.		
Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Ensuring parks and related facilities from new development are resilient to projected seasonal changes in ground conditions through appropriate design and approved implementation.	Council staff have continued to work with developers on new open space provision with particular emphasis on appropriate tree species selection and the design of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS). Alternative species are being chosen to replace vulnerable ones such as ash and horse chestnut and SUDS are being designed to deliver amenity and conservation benefits as well as additional margins of water carrying capacity.	Active working with developers at all points of the design, implementation and adoption process develops good experience and can help to achieve high standards of provision.
Introducing water harvesting and conservation measures to	No direct water harvesting measures taken –ground water and other reserves are well charged. Further improvements to the scheduling of tree and shrub	

improve the use of scarce water resources	planting have helped to lessen the need for spring and summer watering. This will continue to be a planting objective.	
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Commitment: Promote green infrastructure and biodiversity across the Council estate

Progress: Habitat and species management delivered through BAP actions and key site management plans

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Work through the Council's Greenspace Strategy and site management plans to improve the management of the Council estate that promotes biodiversity, natural habitats and adaptation to climate change	<p>Biodiversity and climate change issues continue to be key in the development and delivery of site management plans.</p> <p>A full review of four key site management plans has incorporated further survey work and amended or additional actions for improved biodiversity value at these sites.</p>	Surveys are key in providing information needed to develop effective habitat and species management.
Contribute to the delivery of Habitat and Species Action Plans from the Bedfordshire and Luton BAP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of Completed Fenlake Meadows drainage project and implementation of HLS objectives to improve condition of floodplain grazing Marsh. (Floodplain grazing marsh). • Maintenance of orchards at Park Wood, Mowsbury and Harrold Odell Country Park and advice for community orchard at the Slipe. (Traditional orchards) • Advise on planning applications to prevent losses of BAP species and identify mitigation where appropriate (All BAP species/habitats) • Monitoring of wetland/ponds at Wixams and ponds/wet woodland at Great Denham. (ponds/wetlands) • Maintenance of floodplain grazing at Biddenham (floodplan grazing marsh) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Marston Vale Great Crested Newt meta-population project to ensure that GCN populations, habitats and links between them are maintained in the face of sometimes severe development pressure(ponds/wetlands) • Maintain wet woodland at Harrold Odell Country Park (wet woodlands) • Maintain meadows at Mowsbury Hill fort and Lower Farm Road Nature Reserve (Lowland Meadow) 	
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Commitment: Promote biodiversity, and green infrastructure that helps the area adapt to climate change.

Progress: Progress with Tree Strategy has been delayed to an extent but the four year eco-system project continues to yield results that will help to make decisions about the development of an ecosystems services plan.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
Working with partners (national agencies, businesses and communities, the Local Nature Partnership) to agree an approach to the management of natural resources that is based on the principles of 'ecosystem services' and the promotion of green and blue infrastructure	Year 2 of the four year Biodiversity and EcoSystems Services (BESS) project is now completed. The university and Council supported project has continued to undertake a number of trials, experiment and surveys to support the development of an Ecosystems Services model for Bedford and Kempston.	
Develop a tree strategy, to promote tree planting and the protection of the existing tree stock, through consultation with relevant service areas,	Tree strategy to be completed in 2015/16.	The development of effective policies will be very helpful in delivering an effective tree service and the completion of this work during 2015/16 is a priority.

<p>which will address the reduction of air pollutants, reduction of rapid run off, the provision of urban cooling and carbon sequestration.</p>		
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Commitment: Ensure access to green and open space is maintained and enhanced

Progress: Some key improvements in recreation facilities and access provision during the year.

Action(s)	Progress	Lessons learnt
<p>Retaining and improving existing open spaces, sport and recreation facilities and providing a network of diverse, multi-functional open spaces that is accessible to all.</p>	<p>A programme of open space sports and recreation facilities improvements continues to be implemented. Notable achievements include: a town centre play area plus wider refurbishment programme, a continuing programme of sports facilities and pitch improvements at Allen Park, Hillgrounds, and Mowsbury Park and working with developers to provide access, play and sports facilities. Such improvements help to ensure that Borough open spaces continue to offer high quality, diverse and accessible facilities and amenities to borough residents and visitors.</p>	