

Sustainable Development and Environmental Efficiency Strategy Action Plan 2022/23

For more information, please contact

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Priority 1- Demonstrating Community Leadership

1.1 Reduce energy and carbon emissions across the Councils estate				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL1	Publish annual Greenhouse Gas Report	Report will be completed in accordance with current guidance from Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS previously DECC).	Assessment of our annual performance against our reduction target	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL2	Deliver energy reduction programme	Implement the energy reduction programme	Completion of all projects, reduced electricity and fuel consumption for the Council	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team/ Estate Management
DCL3	Monitor and target energy usage, identifying areas of energy wastage and opportunity	Utilise energy/water management software to monitor and target energy usage	Able to use lessons learned from existing measures to determine what would be effective elsewhere	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL4	Valid Display Energy Certificates and Advisory Reports in place for all sites	Produce and display (where applicable) up to date certificates and advisory reports for all sites	Comply with legislation and valid Display Energy Certificates displayed at all sites and Advisory Reports in place	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL5	Support opportunities to reduce consumption from street lighting	Investigation into what street lighting is necessary and whether some can be switched off.	Reduced energy usage if consumption is reduced. Reduced dependency on the national grid.	Highways
DCL6	Develop battery storage or other income generation/energy stability schemes	Investigate income possibilities from leasing Council land or benefits from developing battery storage for our own energy requirements	Increase income opportunities for the Council	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team/ Design Services Team

1.2 Support local communities to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL7	Improve residents' knowledge of Warm Homes and fuel poverty in Bedford Borough	To distribute information regarding Warm Homes and fuel poverty through existing networks and signpost residents to organisations (e.g. Age UK) for advice	Increased awareness in the community of services available, and increased uptake where measurable.	Public Health, Environment
DCL8	Provide resources for residents and businesses on how to become more energy efficient	Webpage, social media, newsletters. Promote schemes such as Solar Together.	Reduction in carbon emissions from residents and businesses. Improved knowledge on environmental issues.	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL9	Promote the Mayor's Climate Change Fund	Contract community organisations, schools, not-for-profits and public sector bodies to promote the fund. Promote on social media.	Encourage take up in this fund up until it closes in March 2024. Reduction in carbon emissions from community buildings.	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
1.3 Reduce water usage and assess opportunities for water saving				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL10	Continue to enforce Building Regulation water consumption standards.	All applications to the Council's Building Control service are checked for compliance with the Building Regulations.	Reduced water consumption	Building Control
DCL11	Continue using planning policy that requires higher Building Regulation water efficiency standard for new dwellings.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020. Subject to central government changes to Building regulations and the upcoming future homes standards, planning policy will be updated as and when new legislation is released.	Reduced water consumption	Building Control/Planning
DCL12	Identify any areas where water projects can be implemented	Complete water audits in Council buildings	implement any appropriate projects to reduce water consumption	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team / Design Services

DCL13	Encourage drought resistant planting to reduce the need for watering	Review parks and open spaces procedures to ensure practices are considering water efficiency	Improve water efficiency in parks and open spaces	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL14	Improve accuracy of water bills	Conduct a water audit of water bills, including tariff checks and usage benchmarking	Reduce water bills	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL15	Raise awareness of water usage	Develop a water handbook for building managers	Improved knowledge of how to reduce water usage leading to a reduction in water bills	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
1.4 Reduce emissions from Council owned transport				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL16	Improved knowledge of Council transport emissions	Complete the annual Green House Gas reports	Use figures from the report to identify any areas of improvement and suggest to the relevant team	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL17	Reduce mileage and emissions from Fleet Vehicles	Route Optimisation and improve logistics of fleet vehicles	Use data to configure the most efficient routes to reduce mileage and emissions	Fleet
DCL18	Increased knowledge and reduced emissions	Evaluate driver performance in relation to activities that increase fuel consumption through harsh acceleration, braking and cornering. Poorly performing drivers will then be required to undertake a level of training to improve their performance to ensure they are meeting their expected levels.	Drivers increased knowledge on efficient driving techniques resulting in reduction of emissions	Fleet
DCL19	Reduce idling in fleet vehicles	Use Teltrak Navman idling information to monitor vehicle idling statistics. Data is reviewed and disseminated to service	A targeted approach to reduce operatives idling times on their vehicles	Fleet

		areas to discuss with drivers where a follow-up is needed.		
DCL20	Compliant and environmentally efficient vehicles	Going forward, no further Internal Consumption Engine (ICE) vehicles will be purchased without prior agreement. An assessment of all non-Euro 6 vehicles is currently underway. The number of BEV fleet is due to increase significantly during 2022-23. Ongoing preventative maintenance from the Council's workshop ensures that the fleet is operating at the optimum level possible.	Vehicles are more efficient and produce less harmful impacts on the environment	Fleet
DCL21	Increased use of the electric pool bikes	Incentivise the use of Bedford Borough Council's pool of electric bikes	Staff will not be claiming personal mileage back, staff absenteeism reduces the fitter they become from cycling, good for congestions and air quality and the general health of the population. This will reduce the CO2 emitted by staff travel and therefore contribute to the carbon neutral target (direct)	Sustainable Transport
1.5 Support schools/academies in the Borough to reduce their energy and water use and use sustainable transport				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL22	Support schools/academies to develop and implement energy management initiatives	Delivery of Energy SLA (to those schools/academies signed up)	All schools/academies set up to access energy/water management software, delivery of annual energy and water seminar, case studies developed, quarterly emails distributed to all schools/academies, energy handbook circulated to all schools/academies	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team

DCL23	Support schools/academies to develop and implement water management initiatives	Development and delivery of Water SLA (to those schools/academies signed up)	Number of schools/academies signed up to a water SLA. All schools/academies set up to access energy/water management software, delivery of annual energy and water seminar, case studies developed, quarterly emails distributed to all schools/academies, water handbook circulated to all schools/academies	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL24	Promote external funding and sustainable school initiatives	Send regular communications to schools on schemes such as Eco Schools, Ashden Schools, Salix Finance	Regular articles included in finance, governor and ASPIRE newsletters, initiatives discussed/represented at annual energy and water seminar	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL25	Encourage more children to walk, cycle and scoot to school.	Nominated Council officer working with key schools in the Borough to encourage behavioural change and develop School Travel Plans using Modeshift STARS, continuation of the Bike It programme and implantation of WOW projects.	Aspirational aim to increase the number of children walking, cycling or scooting to school. Aim for a rolling programme of engagement and accreditation with schools.	Transport & Highway Policy Team / Children's Services (planning)
1.6 Support our staff				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL26	Deliver an energy and water awareness learning programme to staff	Reassess changes in energy use due to COVID-19. Staff Climate Change and Sustainability e-learning courses.	Staff have improved level of awareness on how their role impacts on energy and water usage, achievement of CO2 reduction targets	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL27	Enable access to environmental efficiency information for Council staff	Energy, water and sustainability information available via the Council's website and intranet	Links regularly circulated to highlight new and updated information via internal bulletins	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team

DCL28	Reduce staff business mileage	Promote sustainable travel options to staff. Develop Borough Travel Plan Adoption of Agile Working. Introduction of the EV pool cars and ebikes for staff.	Staff given more options on where and how they can work as well as how they travel to work. Have Agile Working policies in place.	Transport & Highway Policy Team/Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL29	Reduce business mileage	Promote sustainable and active travel options with selected businesses within the borough	To increase active travel to work by promotion and behaviour change techniques.	Transport Policy Team / Sustainable Transport Team / Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
1.7 Improving efficiencies in waste disposal, increasing recycling performance & reducing waste to landfill				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL30	Optimisation of residential and trade waste collection rounds to improve efficiency and time taken to make collections, and reduce carbon emissions produced by Council vehicles.	Implementing Collective (Bartec) in all commercial RCVs to manage commercial and domestic customer's account and collections. Route optimisation is undertaken every few years to make sure the most efficient routes are in place.	Improving the efficiency of the vehicles by not making wasted journeys.	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team, Refuse and Recycling Operations
DCL31	Update account records to ensure email addresses are held to facilitate electronic communication as standard.	Implementing the Collective (Bartec) to record commercial customer's account and collection rounds.	Improving the efficacy of accounts management and reducing paper/mailings used to 0.	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
DCL32	Optimisation of residential collection and increase incentive to recycle to help achieve the UK binding target of 65% of municipal waste by 2035 and have less than 10% going to landfill by 2035.	Monitor the change to alternate weekly collections	Increased recycling, reduce waste sent to landfill	Waste and Recycling, Refuse and Recycling Operations

DCL33	A new target has been proposed by Government in relation to waste reduction i.e. to reduce waste (excluding major mineral waste) to 50% of 2019 levels by 2042.	This will require changes in collection of waste through the Government waste reforms which are not fully published as yet.	Contributing to consistency in recycling collections across the country including weekly collection of food waste so less waste is landfilled and energy recovered.	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team, Refuse and Recycling Operations
1.8 Assist our partners and stakeholders in monitoring and reducing energy and water consumption				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL34	Improved communication with partners and stakeholders	Provide the option for partners and stakeholders to have access to online tools (Energy Viewer and MyCorona)	Partners and Stakeholders able to view and monitor their energy and water consumption online providing the opportunity to reduce consumption	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
1.9 Promote green infrastructure and biodiversity across the Council estate				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL35	Work through the Council's site management plans to improve the management of the Council estate that promotes biodiversity, natural habitats and adaptation to climate change	Review of biodiversity value of parks and open spaces through regular updates of existing management plans and creation of new management plans where needed. Continue to promote and collect information in accordance with the County Wildlife Site (CWS) in Positive Conservation Management (PCM) for Local nature/conservation biodiversity indicator (DEFRA 160) (formally NI 197).	Improved management of biodiversity and continued compliance with DEFRA 160	Clean Safe and Green

DCL36	Develop a Tree Strategy and Tree Risk Assessment Management Policy to promote tree planting and the protection of the existing tree stock, through consultation with relevant service areas, which will address the reduction of air pollutants, reduction of rapid run off, the provision of urban cooling and carbon sequestration.	Promote the Tree Management Guide which is available on the Council's website. Complete the Road Risk policy which is currently in draft form.	Increased tree protection under the strategy and to work towards the added benefits of reducing air pollutants, rapid run off, provision of urban cooling and carbon sequestration	Clean Safe and Green
DCL37	Investigate how to measure carbon sequestration from our existing tree stock	Going forward, use I Tree to measure the carbon sequestration from increasing tree stock	Understand the total carbon stored and net carbon annually sequestered from trees planted	Clean Safe and Green
1.10 Encourage green practices and procurement within the Council				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
DCL38	Encourage selection of products and services that minimise environmental impacts, including looking to commission and procure energy-efficient products and services	<p>Embed greener procurement within the Council processes and encourage suppliers to provide information on environmental impacts, energy efficiency and sustainability.</p> <p>This will be achieved in two areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental impact assessment 2. testing supplier responses in relation to the specified requirements. 3. Clauses in all contracts 	Council makes sustainable choices on products and services to reduce impact on environment	Procurement

DCL39	Promote the use of E-procurement throughout the organisation	Promote E-Procurement virtual training where applicable. Ensure specification considers reduction of waste and the promotion of reuse throughout supply chain where appropriate. Commitments can be tested through quality questions in Social Value Questionnaire and contract management.	Reduce the use of paper in procurement projects	Procurement
DCL40	Encourage suppliers to take action to reduce waste and promote reuse throughout the supply chain	Requesting information on processes during procurements where appropriate. Ensure specification considers reduction of waste and the promotion of reuse throughout supply chain where appropriate. Commitments can be tested through quality questions in Social Value Questionnaire and contract management.	Promote the Council as a 'green' Council and reduce its associated waste.	Procurement
DCL41	Encourage suppliers to seek sustainable alternatives to materials which are scarce or at risk of becoming so.	Requesting information on processes during procurements where appropriate. Products are considered through the Environmental impact assessment stage and then during evaluation of the supplier returns. Ensure specification considers use of sustainable materials were appropriate. Commitments can be tested through quality questions in Social Value Questionnaire.	Use of sustainable materials, reducing the risk of having to replace unavailable parts in the future	Procurement

DCL42	Encourage suppliers to be aware of the harmful impacts of greenhouse gases including and in addition to CO2 and to take steps to reduce emissions in addition to CO2 reduction.	Ensure specification considers use of reduction of CO2 were appropriate. Commitments can be tested through quality questions in Social Value Questionnaire and in terms and conditions.	Working towards the Councils continued reduction in CO2 and associated greenhouse gases.	Procurement
DCL43	Consider the potential transport requirements associated with any contract and how these may be minimised, whilst encouraging suppliers to minimise the negative impact of their transport operations.	Monitor and consider locality during procurement process where appropriate and allowable to do so. Ensure specification considers minimisation of negative transport were appropriate. Commitments can be included in the terms and conditions.	Provide opportunities for local businesses and promote local economy whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the Council	Procurement
DCL44	Move the Council to a more automated service through simplification and standardisation of processes	Deliver the Digital Operating Model	Reduce the impact on the environment by consolidating processes, reducing use of paper forms and improving the accessibility of the Councils services	Transformation

Priority 2- Building Community Resilience

2.0 Supporting local communities to help them become resilient to the impacts of climate change				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
BCR1	Continue supplementary planning document (SPD) to ensure that developers integrate sustainable surface water management into new developments. Developers to provide sustainable drainage systems for the disposal of surface water and rainwater, so that it is retained either on site or within the immediate area.	<p>Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) SPD adopted February 2018 and now used to assess local planning applications.</p> <p>This is to be reviewed as per the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) 2022 to make sure that it still aligns with the relevant guidance and climate change allowances for planning.</p>	Increased number of planning applications assessed using the SuDS SPD resulting in reduced instances of flooding in new developments and surface water dealt with in a more sustainable way.	Resilience Team/Planning
BCR2	Understand and manage flood risk to help individuals, communities, businesses and other authorities in Bedford prepare and respond to flood events.	Implement Bedford Borough Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022 over the next five years.	Delivery of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan. The focus of the strategy is around building resilience into the Borough, communities and businesses so that we can adapt to the changes and challenges faced around climate change.	Resilience Team
BCR3	Promote the benefits of, and support access to, the natural environment and green spaces	To distribute information regarding benefits of accessing green spaces and work with partners to raise awareness. Encourage projects on natural environment through the suicide prevention community grant scheme.	Access to the natural environment and green spaces contributes to positive mental health and wellbeing and encourages residents to become more physically active. It also helps improve	Public Health

			environmental quality including air pollution and green spaces also support local biodiversity; help to improve air quality and reduce flood risk.	
BCR4	Identify residents in fuel poverty in Bedford Borough	Work with primary care data processors to identify those who are likely to be in fuel poverty.	Ability to share information and help those who need it most.	Public Health, Environment
BCR5	Support funding opportunities to retrofit fuel poor homes	Identify ways to facilitate these funding opportunities if possible to provide support to residents in fuel poverty and improve the quality of their homes.	Improve the energy efficiency of fuel poor homes, resident's health and mental wellbeing. Retrofitting homes with low carbon technologies will also reduce the carbon footprint of the Borough.	Public Health, Environment
2.1 Supporting local businesses to help them become resilient to climate change				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
BCR6	Raise awareness of funding opportunities available to businesses in the Borough to support them in their drive to become more energy efficient	Promote the Carbon Trust's Green Business Fund and Carbon Trust's START2ACT scheme. Linked up with Low Carbon Workspaces Grants to promote match-funded grants for SME's to help with low carbon project costs	Increase number of businesses in the Borough accessing Carbon Trust funding/support	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team/Economic Development
BCR7	Investigate opportunities for disseminating information to local businesses on energy and water saving, sustainability, as well as providing support to them on preparing and adapting to Climate Change	Link up with partners to determine opportunities for partnership working (e.g. Federation of Small Businesses-FSB, Chamber of Commerce, Bedford Business Executive-BBE, Bedford Bid, and Green Business Network). Distribute a new Green Business Guide to businesses in the Borough and articles in business e-newsletter.	Provide information to local businesses to help reduce Bedford Borough's carbon footprint and improve sustainability of businesses	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team/Economic Development/Corporate Safety and Resilience

BCR8	Raising awareness of resources, news and opportunities out there around all green issues	Promote Green focused webinars led by our service partners (e.g. SEMLEP, GBN, Cranfield etc.). Promote and encourage more local businesses to join Green Connectors and the Green Business Network via monthly newsletter and twitter. Highlight that Government can offer environmental taxes, reliefs and schemes for businesses that adopt green strategies.	Increase attendance at these events to encourage networking and knowledge sharing of new initiatives. Joining networks will help to understand the benefits of going green and the ability to receive personalised support.	Economic Development
BCR9	Encourage businesses to ensure they have up to date business continuity plans in place	Link with Bedfordshire Resilience Forum (BLRF) to promote business continuity to local businesses.	Promotion of business continuity through BLRF and the council website. Event organised through BLRF as part of Business Continuity Awareness Week each year	Resilience Team
BCR10	Investigate funding opportunities to develop green skills in the Borough	Apply for funding schemes to support projects to encourage people to upskill for green jobs.	Increased number of residents trained for green jobs.	Economic Development

2.2 Supporting local communities with sustainable transport choices

Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
BCR11	Support and promote the use of a wide range of alternative transport options such as buses, trains and cycling	1) Publicise, sign and improve viable cycle network 2) Assess and improve quality of footway network 3) Promote benefits of walking and cycling, with assistance of Public Health 4) Funding for promotion to schools and businesses 5) Air-Care project to promote sustainable transport to help improve air quality 6) Promote the use of bus services across Bedford Borough through various campaigns	Improve air quality. Increase in the number of walking and cycling journeys to Bedford Town Centre. Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF)	Sustainable Transport Team/ Sports Development/ Children's services /Air Quality Steering Group Public Health
BCR12	Work within the remit of the England's Economic Heartland	Deliver and review the Transport Plan and associated strategies within the national context.	Reduce congestion, decarbonise transport, improve	Transport Policy Team

	Transport Strategy and the Govt's Transport Decarbonisation Plan		air quality and increase active travel	
BCR13	Promote walking and cycling through investment in infrastructure	Deliver the cycle and pedestrian improvements through Town Deal funding. Develop and publish the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan). Implementing through the implementation of extant policy and through the emerging LP2040, including in the Strategic Framework for the South of Bedford area.	Increase in the number of walking and cycling resulting in improved general health and wellbeing of residents in Bedford Borough	Sustainable Transport Team/ Planning and Highways/Public Health
BCR14	Develop and deliver the LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)	Adopt and publish the plan on Council's website. Deliver the cycle and pedestrian improvements through Town Deal funding. Cycle network to be included in future Local Plan. Cycle Network has been re-signed in 2021	Increase cycling and walking within Bedford Borough	Transport
BCR15	Support the development of local electric vehicle charging points and increase the number of these in Bedford Borough in response to expected demand for electric vehicle usage and Central Government target to ban the sale of combustion engine cars (petrol and diesel) by 2030.	Develop contracts with EV charge point suppliers to expand the local charging network. Continue to incorporate EV charge point provision into planning policies.	Work with Bedford EV community to understand demand for charging facilities. Increase the number of charging point. Policies included in Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 Policies included in Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.	Transport / Highways
2.3 Support the installation of low carbon buildings and communities within new and existing developments				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
BCR16	Continue using planning policies that actively encourage renewable and decentralised energy generation.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020. Subject to central government changes to Building regulations and the upcoming future homes standards, planning policy will be updated as and when new legislation is released.	Increase in renewable energy developments and heat network opportunities	Planning

BCR17	Use planning policy to require developers to build homes and other buildings with high energy standards and low embodied energy.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020. Issues associated with energy use are being addressed in area and site specific SPDs.	Improved standards of housing and mitigate against risks of fuel poverty	Planning
BCR18	Establish policies that encourage developers to design new developments that will encourage walking, cycling and public transport use.	Identify opportunities to improve green space and connectivity between sites to promote walking and cycling and that contribute to the emerging Bedford Cycle Network through adopted development plan policies. This principle is reflected in the location of proposed development in the LP2040, picking up on the 15/20 minute neighbourhoods, and good active travel connectivity between settlements	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.	Planning/ Transport/ Clean safe and green
BCR19	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 elsewhere.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020. Implementation of existing national and local policies is ongoing. New Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the Borough completed. Site selection for LP2040 avoids development on land liable to flood in line with national policy.	Limit flooding in new built areas, including subsidence and ground pollution.	Planning
BCR20	Maintain policies to reduce water use in new and existing buildings.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020.	Reduced water consumption	Planning
BCR21	Support policies that support sustainable drainage systems.	Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) SPD adopted February 2018. Local Plan policy adopted January 2020	Improved drainage systems and reduce flooding	Planning

BCR22	Establish policies that support green and blue infrastructure and promote green space and biodiversity.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020. Subject to central government changes to Building regulations and the upcoming future homes standards, planning policy will be updated as and when new legislation is released.	Greener developments which improve health and wellbeing for the local residents	Planning
BCR23	Raise the profile of planning policies that support a move to carbon neutrality	Submission draft plan of the Local Plan 2040 prepared. Policy DS1 (S) Resources and Climate Change included as an overarching strategic policy.	Raises awareness on net zero planning policies	Planning
2.4 Support the reduction in emissions from transport and encourage sustainable transport in new developments				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility
BCR24	Ensure that high quality cycle parking standards are applied in new developments	Standards included in a adopted Parking Standards for Sustainable Communities SPD	Sufficient cycle parking provided that will encourage cycle use and increased opportunities for Active Travel	Transport / Planning
BCR25	Ensure coordinated provision of electric vehicle infrastructure across the borough.	Local Plan policy adopted January 2020. Subject to central government changes to Building regulations and the upcoming future homes standards, planning policy will be updated as and when new legislation is released.	Coordinated provision of electric vehicle infrastructure.	Transport / Planning
BCR26	Provide Sustainable Transport advice and comments on Transport Assessments and Travel Plans when required by the planning process.	Through the planning process. Employment of Travel Plan Officer, as long as funding is available, to work with schools, businesses and new developments.	Increase sustainable development	Transport / Planning
BCR27	Deliver the Air Quality Strategy	Produce Air Quality Reports to DEFRA	Monitor Air quality in Bedford to influence any future decisions	Regulatory Services
2.5 Ensure open spaces including parks and recreation are resilient to predicted climate changes				
Reference	What we want to achieve	How we will achieve it	Outcomes	Responsibility

BCR28	Ensure facilities from new developments are resilient to seasonal changes through appropriate design and implementation	Work with developers and colleagues on open space provision, resilient tree and shrub species, sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) - section 106. The Open Space SPD is used for all planning applications. New biodiversity net gains requirements for developments should strengthen this going forward.	Fewer instances of flooding, improved air quality and improving the aesthetics of the area	Business Development & Environmental Efficiency Team
BCR29	Increase water retention and water conservation methods	Assess tree and shrub planting schedules to lesson need for spring and summer watering. Consider planting drought tolerant species and plants that do not require additional watering. Investigate water harvesting methods.	Reduce water consumption in parks and open spaces	Clean Safe and Green