

Southampton City Council Green City Plan 2020/30

TO CREATE A CLEANER, GREENER, HEALTHIER
AND MORE SUSTAINABLE CITY



Foreword

It is vitally important to ensure that the city continues to support economic growth that contributes to Southampton becoming a green and environmentally sustainable city that will be resilient to the challenges of climate change. A transition towards a zero carbon, cleaner economy and greener landscape will enable the city to grow and evolve as a modern, healthy and attractive place to live, work and do business.

In the summer of 2018 the council undertook a Clean Air Zone consultation exercise with residents, visitors, local communities, neighbouring authorities and businesses. The response to this consultation was an unprecedented 9,309 replies with 75% of respondents indicating that they thought the quality of the air we breathe in Southampton as a key issue. Based on the specific requirements set by Government to address Nitrogen Dioxide levels, the implementation of a Clean Air Zone was not deemed appropriate, but to satisfy the wider expectations of those responding to the consultation we launched the Green City Charter.

I was appointed as Cabinet Member for Green City to oversee this project and our subsequent activities, demonstrating the political priority placed on this subject. I am proud to endorse this Delivery Plan which outlines how over the coming years we will work towards delivering the Green City Charter vision for the City and the associated commitments the council has made.

Making Southampton a greener, cleaner, and healthier city can only be achieved through partnership working with residents, communities, businesses, our Universities, the Port and other stakeholders. With over 70 signatories to the Green City Charter this provides a firm foundation for us to build a Green sustainable city. Everything we do, whether as an individual at work, home or while visiting the city has an environmental impact. The council's intention is to work with partners to develop a shared vision that will ensure the environment is at the forefront of all decision making.

This Green City Charter Delivery Plan shows how we will achieve this.



Councillor Stephen Leggett,
Cabinet Member for Green City and Environment

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Introduction

Southampton is a large and diverse city, with a strong and growing economy. It is a regional hub for transport, business, commerce, leisure and retail as well as being home to a major international cargo and passenger port. The City is predominantly urban in character, with built up areas and influence extending beyond its administrative boundary.

However, Southampton is also a city with a large amount of green space, with 49 parks and 1,140 hectares of open space, including the Common which host over 17 million visitors a year. It also neighbours the New Forest National Park, Southampton Water, the Solent and the range of protected environments within them.

It is important to ensure that the City continues to support economic growth, bringing continued opportunities to its residents, but also that this growth enables Southampton to be a green and environmentally sustainable city that will be resilient to the challenges of climate change. A move towards a low carbon, cleaner economy and greener landscape will enable the city to grow and evolve as a modern, healthy and attractive place to live, work and do business.

In 2018, the government identified Southampton as one of five cities in England outside of London predicted to contravene EU limits on nitrogen

dioxide (NO₂).

This led to the consultation on proposals for a charging Clean Air Zone and generated significant interest and whilst a CAZ was not implemented due to not meeting Government's specific criteria, it triggered a much bigger conversation on the city and its environment. This is why in 2019, in partnership with residents, local businesses and organisations, Southampton launched the Green City Charter, identifying a range of priorities, commitments and expressions of support from a variety of individuals and groups all wishing to deliver far-reaching change to the city environment.

The Charter commits to creating a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city. It provides a leadership framework, not only for the council to lead the way but also to help marshal companies, communities and residents to achieve carbon neutrality. Through the Charter, Southampton will be a better place for present and future generations that is prepared for the challenges presented by climate change. The council will achieve this by ensuring we are ambitious, leading by example and by setting challenging goals and this Green City Plan presents the specific actions and focus over the next three years.

Our vision

Our vision is to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city. Southampton will be a better place for present and future generations that is prepared for the challenges presented by climate change. We will achieve this by ensuring we are ambitious, lead by example and set ourselves challenging goals.

Making Southampton a greener city can only be achieved by working in partnership with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders. Everything we do, whether as an individual at work, home or visiting the city, or as an organisation, has an environmental impact. The council has worked closely with partners to develop a shared set of principles as set out in The Green City Charter that will ensure the environment is at the forefront of all decision making.

Challenges and opportunities for Southampton

- Southampton's population is currently 257,305 and is expected to increase by 35,200 by 2040.
- Approximately 5,500 new homes are expected to be built in Southampton City Centre between 2016 and 2026 and 20,000 City Wide by 2036.
- We are forecasting 7,000 additional jobs between 2016-2026 and 24,000 by 2036.
- By 2036, it is expected there will be 86,000 extra people movements daily across the City's transport network.
- There will be 3,500 additional daily vehicle trips into city centre by 2026.
- The port in terms of freight and passenger numbers is expected to continue to grow and by 2035 we could be handling 95% more cruise passengers, 63% more containers and over 100% more automotive exports.
- Growth in local economy of 2% expected by 2040.
- There are 110 deaths attributed to particulate pollution per year in Southampton.
- We are facing significant internal and external environmental challenges for the future.

Green City Charter Commitments



With over 9,000 responses to the Clean Air Zone consultation this raised a range of issues and ideas to make Southampton a greener city. As a result, The Green City Charter was established in 2018 and now has over 75 signatories from a range of stakeholders and residents that have pledged to following the commitments. These are the foundations to which the Council and the wider city will achieve the step change required to ensure the city is cleaner, greener and more sustainable.

The commitments are:

1. Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction

- We want to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- We will make the best use of our resources and reduce our energy consumption.
- We will use energy that is generated from renewable sources and support the generation of sustainable energy that does not compromise local air quality.

2. Delivering Clean Air

- We will take actions that will improve the quality of life in our city. We want the Healthy Life Expectancy Indicator to be the best amongst our peers and to remove the difference cities like Southampton experience with rural areas in terms of deaths attributed to air pollution.
- We will reduce emissions and aspire to satisfy World Health Organisation air quality guideline values. By 2025 we want to see nitrogen dioxide levels of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as the norm.

3. Our Natural Environment

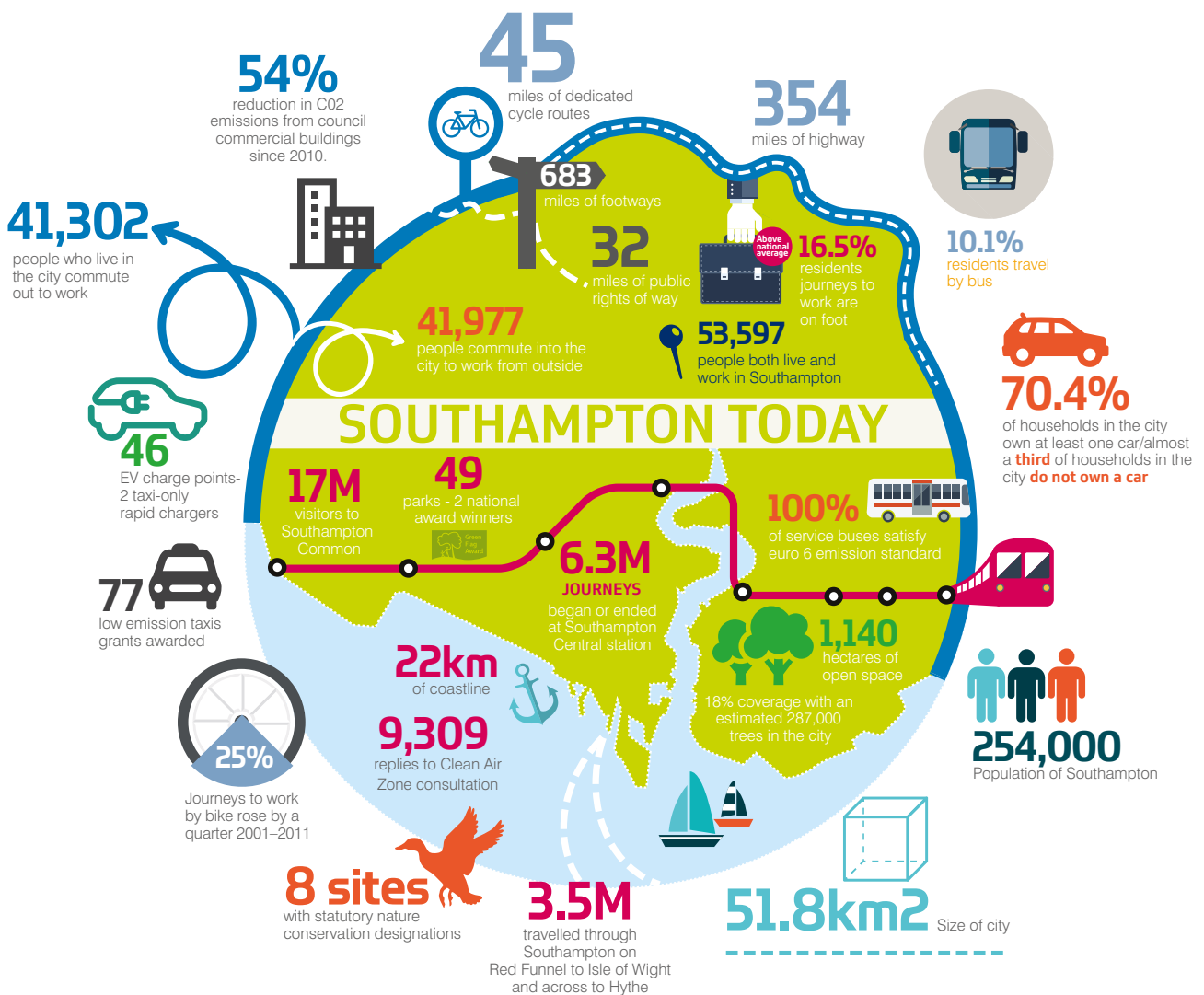
- We will protect and enhance our natural environment.

4. Resources, Waste and Water Management

- We will make the best use of our resources, reduce our energy consumption, minimise waste and ensure we repair, reuse and recycle.
- We will use products and services that support our vision.

5. Sustainable Travel

- We will encourage, promote and incentivise the use of sustainable and active travel.





The Green City Plan

Our Green City Plan is a direct response to the commitments we made in the Green City Charter and identifies the outcomes we want to see and the activities we are going to pursue over the next three years in order to achieve them. We have also explained why we have chosen to do this and identified the approach and principles we will apply, all around five key themes.

1. Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction

Charter Commitments:

- We want to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- We will make the best use of our resources and reduce our energy consumption.
- We will use energy that is generated from renewable sources and support the generation of sustainable energy that does not compromise local air quality

Why are we supporting this?

We are already experiencing the effects of climate change and we must take action now to reduce our impact on the environment. Concentrations of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide have been steadily increasing in the last 100 years due to human activities. These gases absorb heat from the sun and are causing global temperatures to increase. It is estimated that average temperatures have increased 1.5°C in the industrial era and as a consequence we are now experiencing more extreme weather conditions. Heatwaves and flooding are predicted to affect our communities more frequently and there is evidence that our natural world is struggling to adapt.

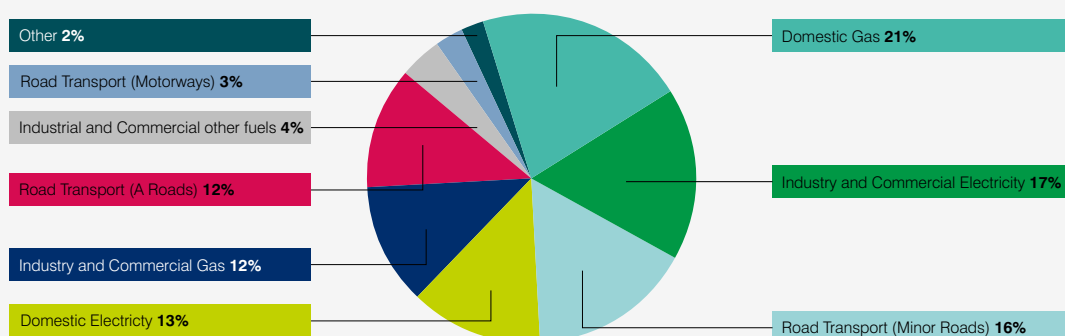
The scientific community predicts that if global temperatures are allowed to increase two degrees above pre-industrial levels the impacts will become far more extreme. An international treaty (Paris Agreement) was established in 2016 in an effort to prevent this from happening. Southampton must be prepared to contribute towards achieving this goal like everyone else and ensure it is equipped to tackle the changes that climate change is already likely to bring.

In 2019 Southampton City Council declared a climate emergency and made a commitment that carbon emissions associated with its activities will be net zero by 2030.

Despite a growing economy and population, Southampton's CO₂ emissions have decreased in recent years. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, reports a reduction of 570,000 tonnes in emissions between 2005 and 2017 – a decrease of 40% in the 12 year period. This reduction is largely due to the rapid shift in the national energy mix away from coal and oil and towards gas and renewables as well as a reduction in heavy energy users including the manufacturing industry.

The Council has been monitoring emissions related to its direct operations and the energy it consumes since 2010 and has delivered similar reductions in this period. But, it accepts a significant effort is required to satisfy its commitments and it will need to play a key role in ensuring the city community can do the same in a way that benefits to the economy and wellbeing of the whole population.

Southampton CO2 emissions estimates (% total) for 2017



Highlights

- By 2030 council corporate assets will have net zero carbon footprint
- 90% of our council fleet will be zero-emission by 2030

How will we get there?

- We will be an exemplar of good practice, provide support to the community and influence positive changes where we can.
- We will ensure we measure, evaluate and report our progress using recognised and transparent methods.
- We will seek to avoid and reduce our emissions and consumption of fossil fuels.
- We will prioritise activities that deliver the largest energy reductions first.
- We recognise that despite our best efforts we are not likely to achieve zero emissions in the next 10 years. If required, we will have to offset to become carbon neutral and will prioritise offsetting schemes that deliver local improvements.
- We will contribute to the generation of local renewable and sustainable energy where feasible by installing solar panels on our assets and investing in other appropriate technology.
- We will ensure our staff are appropriately informed and trained so that they are able to consider and respond to the potential impacts that their activities and decisions can have on achieving our target.

What will we do

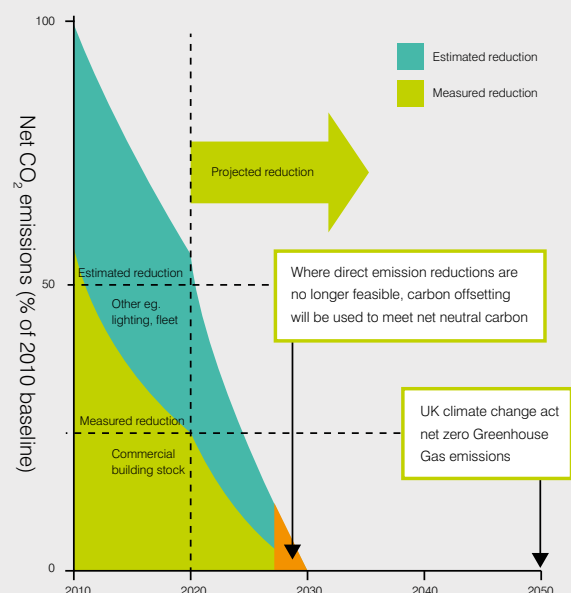
- Review and refresh the Council Carbon Reduction & Energy Plan for all its activities, including its social housing stock.
- Introduce a Housing Asset Management Strategy that incorporates measures to satisfy our Green City commitments.
- Introduce a Future Homes Standard to guide SCC projects and ensure appropriate specifications for energy conservation, carbon reduction and use of renewables.
- Introduce a strategy for offsetting our impacts to address predicted shortfalls and ensure annual targets are met.
- Introduce a programme of carbon reduction measures across the council's corporate assets which include its commercial building stock, street lighting and fleet supported by a new Clean Growth Fund.
- Invest to generate local sustainable and renewable energy, utilising council assets.
- Develop a 5 year business plan for CitizEn Energy establishing a reinvestment programme of local carbon reduction initiatives.
- Undertake a Transport Review and implement an action plan to improve the sustainability of council operated transport.
- Introduce a Council Fleet Modernisation & Sustainability Plan to transition to a zero emission vehicle fleet.
- Develop an Alternative Fuels Plan to pursue low emission options for SCC heavy fleet vehicles and support other city stakeholders.
- Introduce a Green City staff awareness and training programme.

- Review and update the existing Electric Vehicle Action Plan to support the shift to zero emission vehicles across the city for all.
- Undertake a citywide carbon mapping assessment to determine its carbon footprint, predict likely reductions and persistent impacts.
- Produce a City Carbon Reduction & Energy Strategy to support and inform stakeholders across the whole city.
- Actively seek new funding opportunities that will support council and citywide stakeholder initiatives to reduce carbon and deliver sustainable energy schemes.
- Include carbon reduction initiatives in a Citywide Green City Behaviour Change Programme.
- Undertake a mapping exercise of the private rental sector to identify those properties most in need of energy improvements.
- Adopt 'Whole House Approach' through the Better Care Fund to identify opportunities to deliver energy efficient homes.
- Incentivise the private rental sector to offer energy efficient homes by introducing a 'Let with Confidence' accreditation scheme that recognises energy efficiency standards.
- Introduce appropriate policies and technical guidance within SCC's local planning documents.

Success Measures

- Annual reduction in council carbon emissions in accordance targets established in SCC Carbon Reduction & Energy Plan.
- Increase in the quantity of renewable energy generated in the city and from council assets.
- Increase in the proportion of zero and low emission vehicles in the city and council fleets.
- Increase in proportion of highest energy efficiency standards and improvement in general EPC ratings across council and city housing stock.
- By 2026 - Council emissions reduced more than 60% since 2019/20.
- 2030 – SCC corporate assets to achieve net zero emissions

Council Carbon Emissions



What are we already doing?



CitizEn Energy

CitizEn Energy was set up by Southampton City Council in 2018, with the aim to bring a fair and ethical alternative to the energy market. CitizEn Energy customers span across the south, south west and the midlands, and they are part of a council energy network of about 130,000 customers (working under different brands). Together the network hope that the positive impacts can be amplified across the country.

CitizEn Energy supplies 100% green electricity as standard to all of their customers. The weight of CO₂ which has been saved by their customers switching equates to the weight of 120 double decker buses. A woodland nearly twice the size of Southampton Common (or Hyde Park) would be needed to remove as much CO₂ from the atmosphere in one year.

In the future, CitizEn Energy have ambitions to supply locally generated energy to local people. That means buying direct from generators, or building their own generators.



Townhill Park Energy - efficient and sustainable design

Six brand-new three-bedroom houses, plus a block of 50 flats containing a mixture of one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom homes, have recently been completed, with the Council working with building contractor Drew Smith Group.

The Townhill Park redevelopment boasts impressive environmental credentials, which not only support the council's green agenda, and its newly launched Green City Charter, but will also ultimately have a positive impact on residents' energy bills. As a whole, the project has delivered very positive CO₂ Emission and Energy Efficiency ratings, which are up to 19.07% better than the government targets.

Southampton City Council Commercial Buildings go Green

The switch to renewable energy will remove nearly 7,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the environment annually.

The supply to all council run schools, offices and street lights will be part of the change.

Since 2010, the Council has reported its reduction in carbon emissions from commercial buildings as part of the Carbon Reduction Policy, a reduction of 54% in CO₂ levels has been recorded since the launch of this policy.

2. Delivering Clean Air

Charter Commitments:

- We will take actions that will improve the quality of life in our city. We want the Healthy Life Expectancy Indicator to be the best amongst our peers and to remove the difference cities like Southampton experience with rural areas in terms of deaths attributed to air pollution.
- We will reduce emissions and aspire to satisfy World Health Organisation air quality guideline values. By 2025 we want to see nitrogen dioxide levels of 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as the norm.

Why are we supporting this?

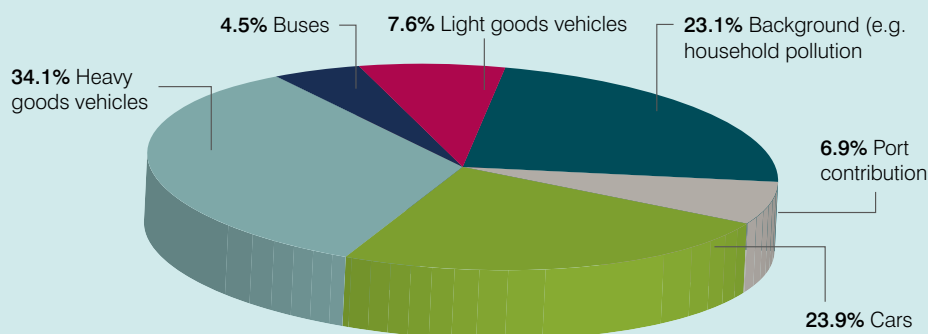
Clean air is essential for good quality of life, yet everyday people living in our urban centres can be exposed to potentially harmful levels of pollutants. In the UK alone, between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths per year can be attributed to air pollution. Poor air quality is now considered the largest environmental health risk in the UK and there is a growing body of evidence which links poor air quality to health issues including heart and respiratory diseases. These impacts are felt more by the most vulnerable in our society. In Southampton, road transport is the most significant contributor to poor air quality while contributions from background and industry sources are also significant.

In recent years, Southampton City Council has recognised the need to introduce measures to address Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) and ensure levels comply with EU and UK limits.

Led by its Clean Air Strategy, actions have focused on the principle cause, road transport and have included supporting a public and active transport, encouraging cleaner vehicles and ensuring the road network operates effectively.

This has been largely successful but there is a general acceptance that there are further public health benefits to be achieved if improvements can be maintained so that all communities in our city are no longer afflicted by the standards of air quality associated with our cities. In doing so we can also expect to deliver a range of other benefits including encouraging active lifestyles, making space for green infrastructure, reducing demand on non-renewable resources and mitigating climate change.

Relative contribution to nitrogen dioxide emissions at M271 and A33 junction, Southampton (2015), these will vary at locations across the city.



Highlights

- 100% of taxi and private hire fleet low emission or clean air zone compliant by 2023
- 100% of bus routes will be serviced by clean air zone compliant vehicles by 2020
- Work with partners to deliver the infrastructure needed to support a zero emission public transport system across the city by 2030

How will we get there?

- We will empower communities and business so they can help identify solutions and implement them.
- We will use a “solutions hierarchy” that will first seek to prevent air pollution (e.g. encouraging walking/cycling), then reduce emissions (e.g. electric vehicles and pollution control technology) and then mitigate the impact (e.g. green infrastructure and building design).
- By understanding what levels of pollutants those in our communities are being exposed to rather than the levels at locations defined by statute
- By supplementing our Clean Air Strategy, Local NO₂ Plan and Air Quality Action Plan with a further range of measures that will encourage and achieve further and ongoing improvements in all aspects of our air quality.

What will we do

- Develop place based solutions with local communities to reduce emissions and encourage healthy life styles.
- Update our Air Quality Action Plan to align with the objectives of the Green City Charter.
- Assess the viability of larger, strategic opportunities such as workplace parking levies, emissions based parking charges, localised road closures and green shipping tariffs.
- Work with operators to develop further opportunities that will deliver ongoing improvements in taxi and public transport emissions.
- Deliver the Local NO₂ Plan by the end of 2022.
- Include “cleaner air” initiatives in Citywide Green City Behaviour Change Programme.
- By identifying those measures that are most effective at reducing exposure levels.
- Encourage Support the switch away from vehicles powered by traditional and electric vehicles in the Council’s fleet and wider city through incentive schemes.
- Support ongoing emission reductions from the Port to act as an exemplar for sustainable shipping.
- Improve access to air quality information and extend the city air quality monitoring network with innovative technology and third party data to demonstrate the value of actions.

- Promote the uptake of electric vehicles in the city, developing a growing network of electric vehicle charging points across the city as part of a coordinated regional network.
- Introduce appropriate policies in the Local Plan Review and any Supplementary Planning Documents where required.

Success Measures

- Reduce mortality rates attributable to air pollution in the city.
- Reduction of particulate, NO₂ and Sulphur Dioxide levels across the city and exposure experienced by our communities.
- Reduced number of 'AirAlert' forecasts and the severity of forecasts.
- Reduction in proportion and number of older, more polluting vehicles operating within the City.
- Introduction of shore side power to the port of Southampton.



What are we already doing?

A 'non-charging' Clean Air Zone

Like most urban areas Southampton has experienced elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide which is known to exacerbate existing respiratory problems amongst those exposed. In 2018 the council explored options to reduce levels on nitrogen dioxide and ensure statutory compliance could be achieved in the shortest possible time. A charging scheme in line with government's national Clean Air Zone framework was amongst the options but was not found to be an effective measure. A programme of measures supported by £1.8m of government funding was introduced in 2019 that include;

Taxi and Private Hire vehicle Licence Conditions

To reduce emissions produced by the local taxi and private hire trade, the the council are adding new licencing conditions to prevent older, more polluting vehicles being provided with a taxi or private hire licence. From 2020 all new licensed taxis must meet the euro 6 diesel or euro 4 petrol standard. From 2022 all licensed taxis and private hire vehicles must meet the same standard

Low Emission Taxis Incentive Scheme

The council has also introduced incentives to support taxi and private hire vehicle owners to change to low emission vehicles. The Low Emission Taxi Incentive Scheme (LETIS), provides a grant to eligible taxi owners, providing up to £3,000 cashback in license cost. Since the launch in December 2017, 77 upgrades have been completed.

Promoting Zero Emission Vehicles

Southampton are also introducing a free consultancy service for taxi and private hire drivers to assess their driving styles and recommend how they can achieve savings by upgrading to electric vehicles. The taxi and private hire trade will also be supported with dedicated rapid charging points.

Delivery Servicing Planning and Freight Consolidation

In partnership with Meachers Global Logistics and the Traffic Research Laboratory the council are offering businesses the opportunity to assess how they can manage their city deliveries more effectively and use a Distribution Centre to consolidate their goods and reduce HGV trips.

Clean Bus Technology Fund and Bus Partnership Agreement

Southampton City Council been awarded £2.7m from the Clean Bus Technology Fund to work with bus service providers in the city to tackle the 145 older (non-euro 6) buses so they meet the same standard as a Euro 6 vehicle. This scheme is currently being implemented and alongside a fleet upgrade programme will ensure all operational buses in the city meet this same standard by the start of 2020. A Partnership Agreement will ensure these standards are maintained and prevent older, more polluting buses re-entering the Southampton fleet in the future.

3. Our Natural Environment

Charter Commitments:

- We will protect and enhance our natural environment.

Why are we supporting this?

Southampton's climate, geology and the variety of open spaces that have been retained amongst the city development, support a wealth of wildlife that adds greatly to public enjoyment and wellbeing. Southampton supports a variety of habitats including coast, mudflats, rivers, streams, ponds, wet and dry meadows, heathland, scrub, hedgerows, woodland and parkland, some of which are so important that they have national and international status. In total, 20% of the city is classified as publicly accessible greenspace which provide community spaces that have been proven to improve health and wellbeing.

The Council owns and manages the majority of open spaces with special biodiversity interests so has a key role to play in conserving biodiversity. It also neighbours areas such as New Forest National Park, Southampton Water, the Solent and the range of protected environments within them. Access to plants and animals improves human health and wellbeing.

Trees alone defend against extreme heat, floods and air pollution, estimated to be worth approximately £1.3 million to Southampton annually. However, the extent of habitat available to wildlife in the city is declining and becoming increasingly fragmented as more areas are developed. The high population density of Southampton puts direct pressures on habitats through disturbance, trampling, littering and pollution. There are extensive areas of short grass set aside for recreation which currently have little ecological value, but do provide an opportunity for enhancement.

Access to good quality green space is vital for health and wellbeing, but high quality green space is not evenly distributed around the city.

Although Southampton appears to have a lot of public green space, the high population density means that there is actually a deficit when looked at in terms of area of green space per person. Despite best efforts there will be a need to 'offset' some of our current carbon emissions and there is an opportunity to achieve this at a local level through habitat creation.

Climate change and the threat of rising sea levels is presenting risks to our land assets. We need to consider how we protect our built environment whilst ensuring we respect the value of our coastal environment.

Highlights

- At least 25 new urban wildflower meadows introduced by 2025
- Increase city tree coverage by planting at least 5,000 trees in public land by 2030
- Establish a Green Space volunteers Forum in 2020 to harness public interest in improving our open spaces

How will we get there?

- We will increase the extent and quality of our green and blue infrastructure.
- We will reduce the fragmentation of habitats by connecting our green and blue infrastructure.
- We will reverse the decline in locally native species diversity and numbers.
- We will adopt and apply the principles of “value for wildlife”, “ecosystem services” and “natural capital” in all our decision making.
- We will recognise and address the conflicts between aspects of biodiversity and benefits of access.
- We will work with residents, community groups and businesses to deliver practical improvements to our natural environment.
- We will use citizen scientists to monitor the effects of the City Council’s natural environment policies and land management practices.
- We will continue to ensure there is proper tree management in Southampton, understanding that some trees may need to be removed from time to time but there will be net increase through a managed planting programme.
- Seek to enhance the natural environment and deliver a net gain to the city biodiversity as part of all major infrastructure projects
- Manage flood risks with defence schemes and sustainable drainage systems.

What will we do

- Establish a citywide ‘Green Grid’. A green infrastructure network providing green and healthy routes for people and wildlife.
- Identify opportunities to utilise Council buildings and land to add to the ‘Green Grid’ through the creation of green walls and roofs, tree planting and wildflower verges.
- Work with private land owners to assess opportunities for forming links in the ‘Green Grid’ and encourage them to implement green infrastructure.
- Launch an Urban Canopy Project to focus planting on public land to encourage biodiversity and provide other benefits such as improved air quality, flood reduction and heat mitigation through the provision of shade.
- Increase urban tree numbers by accessing the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.
- Undertake a review of citywide Tree Preservation Orders to provide protection for existing trees and deliver effective enforcement.
- Develop and implement a Grassland Management Plan for Council, community and residential spaces that will introduce at least 5 new urban meadows a year.
- Create an interactive, live Green Space Map of important habitats and spaces to assist in measuring success and to promote public access to the outdoors.
- With partners measure trends in city biodiversity by undertaking a program of surveying and assessment.

- Develop the existing Community Engagement Officer scheme to strengthen our partnerships with community groups and residents.
- Deliver a rolling programme of species-specific projects and educational campaigns to support important animals including bats, hedgehogs and peregrines.
- Introduce appropriate policies in the Local Plan Review and any Supplementary Planning Documents where required.
- In partnership with relevant authorities develop and obtain funding for city flood alleviation and coastal erosion scheme.

Success Measures

- A net improvement in biodiversity index across the city.
- An increase in the extent and quality of managed habitats and a reduction in the isolation index.
- An increase in the tree canopy coverage.
- An increase in the area of greenspace.
- An increase in the extent of land managed for biodiversity.
- Introduction of sustainable drainage systems into all new major developments.



What are we already doing?

Our Parks and Green Spaces

In 2019, two of our parks (St James' Park in Shirley and Riverside Park in Bitterne Park) were recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as being amongst the very best in the world. Both parks are unique in character, but have fantastic community lead friends groups at the heart of their management.

The council also recently completed work on the regeneration of Blechynden Gardens, an important route for people walking between Southampton Central Station and the City Centre. The newly created park is on the site of the remains of the Emperia Buildings, a warehouse built in 1905 which was bombed in 1940 during the Blitz of Southampton in World War II.

Coastal Defences

The council currently working with The Environment Agency and partners on two projects to reduce flood risk and coastal erosion to the city's coastal areas:

The River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Southampton City Council are working in partnership with the Environment Agency to design and develop the business case to build a scheme which will reduce tidal flood risk to the west bank of the River Itchen. The scheme will provide protection to a number of residential and commercial properties as well as key transport routes into the city. An objective of the scheme is to enhance the natural environment, where possible, through the delivery of the scheme.

Weston Shore Coastal Erosion Scheme

- A coastal erosion scheme aimed at tackling the ongoing erosion that has begun to significantly undermine the public promenade on Weston Shore. The shared use promenade forms part of the Itchen Way, Solent Way and National Cycle Network Route 2 and therefore forms part of the sustainable transport network in the city.

Green Space Factor

Southampton is a densely developed city with little opportunity to create new green space.

The City Council therefore needed to adopt a broader approach to green infrastructure by trying to green up built development through the use of landscape planting, street trees, green roofs and green walls. This has been incorporated into the City Centre Action Plan which requires all developments, and especially the key sites, to assess the potential of the site for appropriate green infrastructure and provide suitable qualitative improvements.

The Southampton Green Space Factor tool and guidance can be found here:

www.southampton.gov.uk/planning/planning-permission/sustainability-checklist.aspx

Living Walls

Southampton City Council, with its Highways Partner Balfour Beatty, has completed newly reconstructed Millbrook Roundabout into a greener, cleaner environment with a new Living Wall made up of green planting. This is the first Living Wall of its kind on the UK's major road network.

The walls will take the form of ten green columns which will appear to support the flyover. The plants will sit on free-standing frames away from the columns, meaning the structure is not affected.



4. Resources, Waste and Water Management

Charter Commitments:

- We will make the best use of our resources, reduce our energy consumption, minimise waste and ensure we repair, reuse and recycle.
- We will use products and services that support our vision.

Why are we supporting this?

Everything we use has to come from somewhere and must go somewhere once we're finished with it. Each year Southampton City Council spends in excess of £350M on goods and services and we have the opportunity to reduce their impacts by making smart decisions about what we buy, how we get the most out of our purchases and what we do when we no longer need them. In turn, we can expect to reduce costs associated with all aspects of our activities, deliver better services and encourage others to make similar choices.

The Council is both the waste collection and disposal authority for the city with a responsibility to collect and dispose of waste safely and minimise damage caused to our natural environment which includes initiatives to tackle waste crime. In 2018/19 the council collected approximately 54,000 tonnes of waste per year from kerbside collections of which 91% was incinerated and only 9% sent to landfill. 11,549 tonnes of dry recyclables, 3,670 tonnes of garden waste and 4,802 tonnes of glass were also collected.

Initiatives to engage with communities and change behaviours can help to reduce waste generation and increase recycling and reuse rates. But a longer term plan and investment programme to improve waste management facilities and address the limited market for recyclable materials will be necessary.

Mains water is one resource which we cannot be selective about choosing a supplier so the need to manage what we use is even more important. Demand per person for water in the UK has increased by over 70% in the 2000s compared to previous decades and overall demand is predicted to increase into the future.

This is placing increased pressure on the fresh water resources we rely on. Removing water for use also raises various environmental issues including threatening vulnerable habitats while treatment of waste water requires a complex process and a lot of energy and can impact on natural habitats when discharged. Southampton relies on water from the River Test and Itchen – both designated sites for wildlife that will experience pressure as the city's population steadily grows and demand is placed on these sensitive sources. The Council has the opportunity to reduce these impacts by ensuring it uses this resource efficiently and reduces its demand. It is also in a position to help water suppliers and their customers improve water management across the city.

Highlights

- Double waste recycling rates by 2030.
- A new council Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy operating by 2021.

How will we get there?

- We will manage and minimise our demand by ensuring existing assets are used effectively, new goods and/or services are sourced only when necessary, the alternatives to purchasing have been considered and that volumes requested are accurate.
- We will embed sustainable outcomes as key consideration into the procurement process to ensure the value of sustainable outcomes is recognised.
- We will seek to contract suppliers who demonstrate environmentally and socially sustainable behaviours within their organisation.
- We will use contractual arrangements to encourage and even require suppliers to continue to improve their approach to sustainability in their services or goods and their own organisational operations.
- We will seek opportunities to work with stakeholders to support and promote examples of good practice that will maintain a circular economy.
- We will use our role as the Waste and Planning Authority to introduce standards and initiatives that will ensure effective use of resources and reduce waste.

What will we do

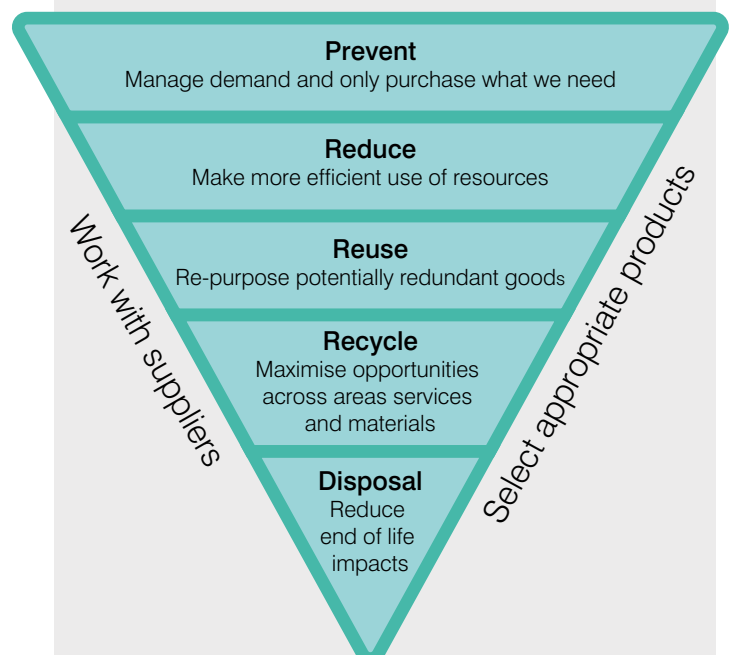
- Introduce a new Council Social Value and Sustainable Procurement Policy Framework.
- Introduce a city-wide waste reduction and recycling initiative to address barriers to waste prevention, reuse and recycling and encourage and support;
 - Businesses to adopt sustainable waste models which include schemes such as: food waste models, waste stream audits, staff training and waste performance reporting;
 - Behaviour change to encourage individuals to properly manage their waste.
- Extend the range of materials accepted by the Council's recycling services.
- Introduce a single use plastics policy for all Council services.
- Improve rates of recycling within the Council services and premises by working towards ISO14001 standard.
- Introduce Green City Champions across Council services to promote to uptake of good, sustainable practice in the workplace and monitor progress
- Introduce a water conservation plan to Council services and premises, including utilisation of grey water.
- Support Southern Water conservation schemes including AquaHacks for residents and Target 100 for the Council and City.
- Identify opportunities to integrate urban drainage systems, grey water management and green infrastructure.

- Support Southern Water conservation schemes including AquaHacks for residents and Target 100 for the Council and City.
- Introduce appropriate policies and technical guidance within SCC's local planning documents including use of sustainable building materials and management of wastes in construction, the integration of urban drainage systems, grey water management and green infrastructure and building neighbourhoods that will encourage positive waste management behaviours.

Success Measures

- Improvement in the score attributed to the environmental impact of the Council's procurement as measured by the Local Government Association's TOMs methodology
- Increase in the recycling rate for domestic and commercial waste collected by the Council.
- Decrease in waste volumes in Council premises and increase in recycling rates
- Reduction in the Council's water consumption and increase in 'grey' water use.
- Reduction in the use of single use plastic across the Council.

Waste and resource hierarchy



What are we already doing?

Reducing waste and improving recycling rates

Alternate weekly collections for households were introduced in 2017-18 and recycling was encouraged as part of the change management strategy and rates increased by 2%.

Southampton City Council and the city's Universities partnered together with a number of residents groups and local police officers in 2019 to tackle the end-of-term waste issue in Southampton through a targeted social media behaviour change campaign.

Students were encouraged to re-use or donate clothes or other items they may otherwise dispose of when returning home at the end of term. Landlords were also asked to encourage their tenants to manage their waste responsibly.

Waste Compliance officers and community payback teams engaged face to face with students on the lead up to the end of term and were patrolling hotspots to tackle any non-compliant residents. The waste put out on the street this year was approximately 40 tonnes less than the previous years.

SCC is engaged in the delivery of the Hampshire wide 'Green Credentials and Behaviours Project' which uses customer insight to identify barriers to recycling and social media tools to overcome them. This project is ongoing and will run into spring in targeted areas.



5. Sustainable Travel

Charter commitments:

- We will encourage, promote and incentivise the use of sustainable and active travel.

There are a number of challenges facing Southampton over the coming decades in terms of its transport links across the city. Southampton has bold and ambitious plans for growth which could see over 30,000 more people living in Southampton and it is anticipated that trade through the Port of Southampton is likely to double by 2035. By then, it could be handling 95% more cruise passengers, 63% more containers and over 100% more automotive exports, and 80% more traffic to the Isle of Wight.

There are pockets of deprivation in the city with 11% of the population living in the top 10% of the most deprived in England. People living in these areas often have lower levels of car ownership and because many are close to busy roads they can experience higher levels of air pollution. This has led to a great variance in people's healthy life expectancy with people living in the more deprived areas living up to 8½ years less than those in the more affluent areas. Congestion costs the Southampton economy around £100m per year and impacts on the reliability of bus services. As the city grows, journey times could increase further with one main corridor forecast to see an increase in peak journey times of 127%.

We want to use transport improvements to support the sustainable economic growth of Southampton by preparing, investing and maximising how an already congested transport system operates, so it becomes more connected, innovative, and resilient. By doing this we will make Southampton an attractive place to live which promotes our residents quality of life, improves safety, with inclusive access to transport regardless of their circumstances. By widening peoples travel choices they can get around actively, healthily and, at the same time, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.



Highlights

- 15% of journeys into the city will be by bike by 2027
- Be in the top 10% UK cities for number of public electric vehicle charging units by 2025
- Deliver two Active Travel Zones in the city by 2025.

How will we get there?

- Use transport improvements to support the sustainable economic growth of Southampton by preparing, investing and maximising how an already congested transport system operates, so it becomes connected, innovative, and resilient, providing connections to where people want to go enabling people and goods to get around easily;
- Make Southampton an attractive and liveable place and improve people's quality of life, so that everyone is safe, and has inclusive access to transport regardless of their circumstances;
- Support people in changing the way they move around the city, by widening their travel choices so they can get around actively and healthily and travel moves towards becoming 'zero emission'.

What will we do

- Establish formal planning guidance, setting clear standards for the provision of sustainable transport measures.
- Establish robust methods for monitoring and evaluating travel plans.
- Require new developments have sustainable logistics solutions as identified through Delivery and Service Plans.
- Explore the introduction of dynamic routing to guide HGV drivers onto optimal routes for their deliveries.
- Seek funding to develop dynamic kerbside management system for the city.
- Work with Highways England to deliver a programme to support commuters to make more sustainable travel choices especially during periods of major road works.
- Establish the first active travel zones in St Denys and Woolston.
- Encourage more last mile deliveries to be made by bike, e-cargo bike or zero emission vehicle.
- Expand the SolentGo smart card so that other modes and methods of travel can be added to the platform.
- Grow our local car club, lift sharing platform and cycle share scheme.
- Plan to reduce the amount of parking provision in the City Centre over time to encourage more sustainable transport, enabling new development and repurposing of space to support a more liveable city.

- Build on the work we have been doing to create safe play spaces in streets.
- Identify opportunities to introduce sustainable transport schemes to serve communities and those otherwise facing barriers to travel.
- Establish internal standards for the Council's own capital assets programme, schools expansion programme and regeneration projects to enable active travel and create neighbourhood spaces.
- Develop Rapid Bus corridors, Park and Ride and shift 80km of the Southampton Cycle network to segregated cycle safe routes again supported by the government Transforming Cities Fund.
- Introduce appropriate policies in the Local Plan Review and any Supplementary Planning Documents where required.

Success Measures

- Higher percentage of people walking, cycling and using public transport.
- Increase in the length of trips made by walking and cycling.
- Increase in the use of public transport.
- Increase in the number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points.



What are we already doing?



Electric Vehicles

There has been a significant increase in the number of people buying and using electric vehicles in Southampton. We are working with partners to develop a network of charging points throughout the city to help residents and visitors to charge their electric vehicles quickly and efficiently. Southampton now has 46 charging points across five city centre car parks and eight car parks in district centres. The network will continue expanding in 2020, and will see the introduction of rapid charging dedicated for taxi and private hire vehicles.

Together with this growing number of charging points, drivers of electric vehicles also have access to a 90% discount for selected city centre car parks, free passage on the Itchen Toll with a SmartCities Card and have benefitted from free electricity at all Southampton owned charging points. The council runs a varied fleet of over 400 vehicles and is investing in electric vehicles wherever current technology allows.



My Journey

My Journey is a Hampshire wide behaviour change programme which aims to 'Create a culture of walking and cycling'. The programme covers a range of activities and initiatives to change people's travel behaviour through engagement, journey planning, promotion and marketing.

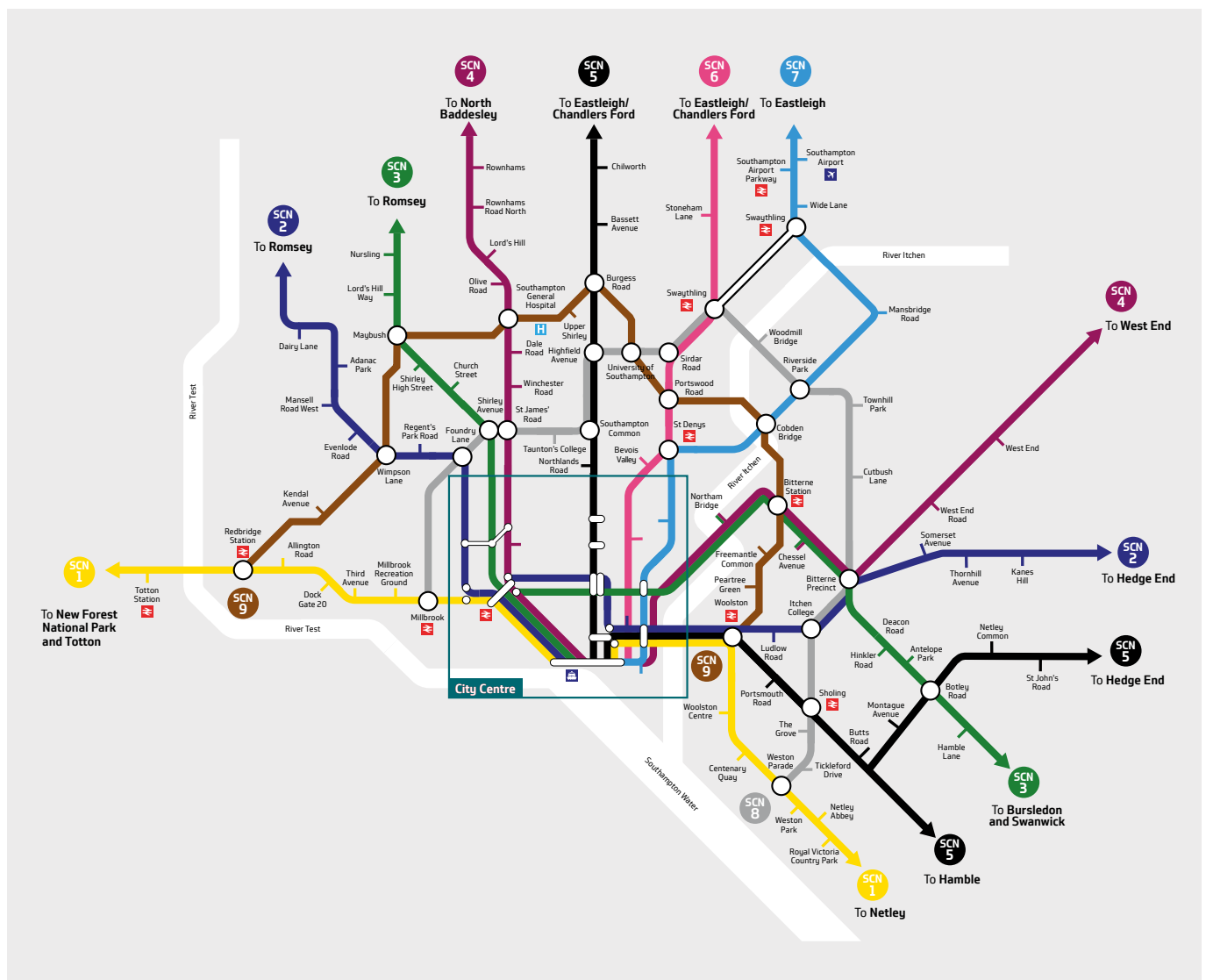
A highlight has included the 'My Journey to work' programme which has reached 6000 people and 150 unemployed people have received 1:1 training, bike loans and personalised journey planning. A number of campaigns have been delivered in workplaces to raise awareness of cycling and create a culture of cycling in organisations. Workplace leaders and champions have been supported to adopt and promote policies and practices which encourage sustainable travel.

Southampton Cycling Network

Southampton City Council has announced the launch of the Southampton Cycle Network Route 1 (SCN1), a safe, high quality cycle route from Totton to Southampton City Centre.

SCN1 is the first route to open on the Southampton Cycle Network, the cornerstone of a ten year strategy to transform the cycling experience in the city. Launched in 2017, the strategy outlines ambitious plans which respond

to calls for more cycleways, safer roads, less traffic and better awareness to address common barriers to cycling. Two years later, Southampton City Council has made significant progress across the network, accelerated by a series of successful funding bids to central Government. This has seen an investment of £2.4m in new cycleways with plans for a further £8.3m for projects completing during 2019 alone.



How the charter links with other plans



Delivery Plan 2020-23

Theme	Actions	Timescale		
		Within 1 year	Within 2 years	Within 3 years
General	Introduce appropriate policies in the Local Plan Review and any Supplementary Planning Documents where required.	✓	✓	✓
	Engage with young people by delivering a Youth Assembly	✓		
Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction	Refresh the Council Carbon Reduction & Energy Plan (including, but not exclusive to, actions already identified in this Delivery Plan)	✓		
	Extend existing Salix recycling fund to create a Clean Growth Fund capable of addressing carbon emissions from the Council's commercial (non-housing) stock and fleet.	✓		
	Introduce an investment plan to generate local sustainable and renewable energy utilising SCC assets.	✓	✓	
	Introduce a Housing Asset Management Strategy that incorporates measures to satisfy our Green City commitments.	✓		
	Introduce a Future Homes Standard to guide SCC projects and ensure appropriate specifications for energy conservations, carbon reduction and use of renewables.		✓	
	Develop a 5 year business plan for CitizEN establishing reinvestment programme of carbon reduction initiatives.		✓	
	Undertake a Council Transport Review to ensure sustainable transport options are encouraged and prioritised for all council transport activities		✓	
	Introduce a Council Fleet Modernisation Plan to reduce fuel/energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.		✓	
	Introduce a staff awareness and training programme to ensure energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction are delivered and maintained across all services.		✓	
	Undertake a city wide carbon mapping assessment to determine carbon footprint, predict likely reductions and persistent impacts.	✓		
	Produce a Citywide Carbon Reduction & Energy Strategy to support and inform stakeholders across the whole city.		✓	
	Include carbon reduction and initiatives in a citywide Green City behaviour change programme.			✓
	Update the existing Electric Vehicle Action Plan to ensure progressive development of local charging infrastructure in line with industry developments	✓		
	Develop an Alternative Fuels Plan to pursue low emission options for heavy fleet vehicles			✓
	Undertake a mapping exercise of the private rental sector to identify those properties most in need of energy improvements and then target with mix of enforcement and incentivisation using the Healthy Homes scheme.			✓
	Adopt 'Whole House Approach' through Disabled Facilities Grant Programme to identify opportunities to deliver energy efficient homes.		✓	
Incentivise private rental sector to offer energy efficient homes by introducing a Let with Confidence accreditation scheme that recognises energy efficiency standards.			✓	

Theme	Actions	Timescale		
		Within 1 year	Within 2 years	Within 3 years
Delivering Clean Air	Update the Air Quality Action Plan to align with the objectives of the Green City charter.	✓		
	Assess viability of larger, strategic opportunities including: workplace parking levies, emissions based parking charges, localised road closures and green shipping tariffs.		✓	
	Invigorate existing measures and develop further business cases to deliver ongoing improvements in taxi and public transport emissions.		✓	
	Deliver the Local NO2 Plan by the end of 2022.		✓	
	Include “cleaner air” initiatives in Citywide Green City Behaviour Change Programme.		✓	
	Map real world exposures and seek public health improvements beyond boundaries of existing standards.		✓	
	Continue promotion of hybrid and electric vehicles in the Council's fleet via the Low Emission Taxi Scheme and other incentives.	✓		
	Support ongoing emission reductions from Southampton Port to act as an exemplar city for sustainable shipping.			✓
	Extend ability of air quality monitoring network to include innovative technology and third party data.		✓	
	Promote the uptake of electric vehicles in the city, developing a growing network of electric vehicle charging points across the city.	✓		
Our Natural Environment	Establish a citywide Green Grid green infrastructure network providing green and healthy routes for people and wildlife.		✓	
	Identify opportunities to utilise Council buildings and spaces in the green grid through creation of green walls and roofs, tree planting, wildflower verges and play provision.	✓	✓	✓
	Work with private land owners to assess opportunities for forming links in the green grid and assist them in implementing green infrastructure		✓	✓
	Launch the Urban Canopy Project which focuses planting on public land for biodiversity and other benefits including pollution, flooding and heat mitigation.		✓	
	Increase urban tree numbers by pursuing the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.	✓	✓	✓
	Undertake a review of citywide Tree Preservation Orders to ensure protection of existing trees and deliver effective enforcement.			✓
	Develop and implement a Grassland Management Plan for Council, community and residential spaces that will introduce at least 5 new urban meadows a year.	✓	✓	✓
	With partners measure trends in city biodiversity by undertaking a program of surveying and assessment.		✓	
	Develop partnership with Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre to provide city wide surveying, reporting and development of key performance indicators.		✓	
	Extend the Community Engagement Officer scheme to raise awareness and strengthen our partnerships with community groups and residents.	✓		
	Continue a rolling programme of species-specific projects to support important animals including bats, hedgehogs and peregrines.	✓	✓	✓
Introduce a sustainable pesticides and herbicides policy.	✓			

Theme	Actions	Timescale		
		Within 1 year	Within 2 years	Within 3 years
Resources, Waste and Water management	Introduce a new Council Social Value and Sustainable Procurement Policy Framework.	✓		
	Introduce a city-wide waste reduction and recycling initiative to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address barriers to waste prevention, reuse and recycling and; • Encourage and support; • Businesses to adopt sustainable waste models which include schemes such as: food waste models, waste stream audits, staff training and waste performance reporting; • Behaviour shifts in individuals to adopt waste hierarchy. 		✓	
	Extend the range of materials accepted by the Council's recycling services.			✓
	Introduce a single use plastics policy for all Council services.			✓
	Improve rates of recycling within the Council services and premises by working towards ISO14001 standard.		✓	
	Introduce Green City Champions across Council services to promote to uptake of good, sustainable practice in the workplace and monitor progress.	✓		
	Introduce a water conservation plan to Council services and premises, including utilisation of grey water.			✓
	Support Southern Water conservation schemes including AquaHacks for residents and Target 100 for the Council and City.	✓		
	Identify opportunities to integrate urban drainage systems, grey water management and green infrastructure.			✓
	Sustainable Travel	Maintain and extend the MyJourney programme to promote to use of sustainable and active travel choices.	✓	✓
Work to establish robust method for monitoring and evaluating travel plans as part of the development control process to ensure new development meets the highest standards for sustainable travel.			✓	
Support the use of Delivery Service Planning amongst Southampton businesses, the use of the existing Sustainable Distribution Centre and the introduction of other freight consolidation schemes.		✓	✓	✓
Condition Delivery and Service Plans as part of planning permissions and work in conjunction with an employer's Workplace Travel Plan to ensure that transport is efficient, cost effective and embed sustainable freight practices.		✓		
Explore the use of dynamic routing to guide HGV drivers onto optimal routes for their deliveries.			✓	
Seek funding to develop dynamic kerbside management system for the city that enables use of kerbside loading on a booking system utilising smart sensors.			✓	
Work with Highways England over the next 18 months to deliver a £1.7m travel demand management programme to further support commuters in adopting more sustainable travel modes.		✓	✓	

Theme	Actions	Timescale		
		Within 1 year	Within 2 years	Within 3 years
Sustainable Travel continued	Establish the first active travel zones in the city in St Denys and Woolston utilising the Transforming Cities grant funding.		✓	
	Look to encourage more last mile deliveries to be made by bike, e-cargo bike or zero emission vehicle operating from a Local Mobility Hub or SDC.	✓		
	Expand SolentGo so that other modes and methods of travel can be added to the platform so that it is simple to use on public transport, in a taxi, for a shared bike or a shared car.			✓
	Grow our local car club, lift sharing platform and cycle share scheme so that they become established and well used offers in the city.		✓	
	Identify opportunities to introduce sustainable transport schemes to serve communities and those otherwise facing barriers to travel.		✓	
	Reduce the amount of parking provision in the City Centre over time, enabling new development and repurposing of space.			✓
	Build on the work we have been doing to create safe play spaces in streets designed jointly with pupils and staff and our existing schools engagement and planning programme.	✓	✓	✓
	Establish internal standards for the Council's own capital assets programme, schools expansion programme and regeneration projects to enable active travel and create liveable neighbourhoods.		✓	
	Begin major changes in the city as part of the Transforming Cities Fund to make it more liveable and change the priority between people walking, cycling and on public transport against cars. Including new public spaces, transport interchanges at Central Station and Portland Terrace, and bus priority routes.			✓

Green City Charter for Southampton

Our vision is to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city. Southampton will be a better place for present and future generations that is prepared for the challenges presented by climate change. We will achieve this by ensuring we are ambitious, lead by example and set ourselves challenging goals.

To find out more and pledge your support visit Southampton.gov.uk/GreenCity



Making Southampton a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city.



