

Luton 2040

DRAFT

Appendix 3

Luton Net Zero: Climate Change Policy and Action Plan

Luton 2040
A place to thrive



1

Climate Change Policy

Luton Council Climate Change Policy

As part of Luton's 2040 vision, it is the commitment of Luton Borough Council (LBC) to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from the council estate and operations to net zero as well as lead the way to a net zero Luton town by 2040. The commitment is one of five strategic priorities at the heart of the 2040 vision to ensure that Luton is a healthy, fair, and sustainable town, where everyone can thrive, and no-one has to live in poverty.

LBC has noted its impact on the environment and contribution to climate change from emissions arising from the delivery of its operations and those from residents' activity across the town. LBC is committed to embedding the necessary principles of sustainable development into the council's operations to reduce emissions and build climate resilience across Luton to achieve and support our long-term ambitions as a town.

At an operational level, LBC will work across all Council services and departments and provide the necessary resources and performance review to improve environmental performance and build resilience into existing and future services and provisions. LBC will encourage and enable all employees to embed these commitments into their daily work to make it standard practice. LBC will also work with contractors and suppliers to improve environmental performance. This policy will, therefore, be communicated to all employees and contractors working for or on behalf of LBC.

LBC will monitor environmental performance against organisational objectives and targets and monitor the implementation of emission reduction projects as outlined in the climate change action plan. Progress on both aspects will be reported regularly.

LBC will work collaboratively with residents, partners and organisations across Luton to reduce our net carbon emissions and increase climate resilience over the next two decades. With this commitment at the heart of our 2040 vision LBC will work in partnership to ensure that our homes, our infrastructure, our businesses and our airport are sustainable and resilient to a changing climate.

Luton Borough Council is committed to:

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero carbon by 2040 for the council estate and Luton town
- Ensuring that local environmental, social and economic issues are addressed to ensure that Luton is a fairer, healthier and sustainable place to live where everyone can thrive and no-one has to live in poverty
- Working collaboratively with residents and our schools, hospitals, local businesses and our charities to actively encourage responsible practices and behaviours
- Identifying and managing the Council's own local environmental and climate change impacts
- Identifying the risks and vulnerabilities from expected climate change and produce plans and actions to limit negative impacts and improve resilience
- Leading by example and use our influence to raise awareness and understanding of environmental and climate change issues
- Promoting this policy and make it known to all staff, members, suppliers, contractors, partners and citizens

It must be noted that Luton Borough Council does not have the financial means to secure transition of the council estate to net zero or enable and lead the transition for the town. The Council is however committed to seeking external grant funding and encourage wider stakeholder investment when possible.

2

Action Plan

Our Action Plan

The Climate Change Action Plan sets out the potential work that the council considers to be needed to address the carbon reduction and climate resilience challenges. However, the proposed actions are subject to national policy changes, availability or funding, internal and external resourcing and willingness of the right partners and the community as a whole to engage and cooperate.

This action plan is an updated version of the initial Climate Change Action Plan as published in Jan 2020 and subsequent iterations. Current amendments come as a result of the roadmap development process.

The action plan is presented in tables by sector. The following information is given for each action included:

Headline action – high level action description

Description – detailed description of the proposed action

Action type – delivery mechanism of action e.g. Policy development/ council decision, enabling activity by council and others, council led project or partnership project requiring leadership external to council

Time – expected delivery date

Delivery owners – organisation/ council service responsible for delivery

Delivery partners – other organisations/ services supporting delivery

Carbon impact – estimated carbon impact illustrated through arrows, dotted line equates to a negligible impact. ‘E’ represents enabling action and therefore is not attributed to direct emission reduction

Cost - high level cost estimate **£** over 10k, **££** over £100k, **£££** -over £1M

LBC staff requirements 👤 - one officer or team, 👤 👤 - one service or department, 👤 👤 👤 - multiple teams or interdepartmental

Co-benefits - positive results of action implementation other than carbon emission reduction.

Linking co-benefits to action

Below are the co-benefits referenced within the action plan. Links between 'other co-benefits' and the Luton 2040 objectives are given in brackets.

Luton 2040 Objectives	Other Co-benefits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining economic growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living and working well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green jobs and skills (<i>Inclusive economy</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing and dying well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced fuel poverty (<i>Population wellbeing, A town built on fairness and social justice</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local wealth building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality education for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing (health) inequalities (<i>Inclusive Economy, Population wellbeing, A town built on fairness and social justice</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving town centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and cohesive community (community engagement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health & wellbeing (<i>Population wellbeing</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A real living wage town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved air quality (<i>Population wellbeing</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming lives through arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A town built on fairness and social justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost savings for council (<i>Inclusive Economy</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing the airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child-friendly town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience to climate change (<i>Population wellbeing</i>)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting and developing well 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local economic resilience/growth (<i>Inclusive economy</i>)

1. Residential Buildings

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Retrofit homes	<p>Set out the level and likely cost of homes retrofits required to meet net zero by 2040.</p> <p>Set targets for % homes retrofits needed per year needed to deliver net zero by 2040 for council, social landlords and private sector homes - to be included in a new Housing Strategy.</p>	Policy development/ council decision	2022	Climate change team, housing strategy team	Consultation with Housing Associations, landlords, residents	E	££		Achieving these targets is highly dependent on the availability of grant or other funding mechanisms from central government. Progress will be monitored annually.
Local Plan	Review and update the draft Local Plan to ensure policies that promote net-zero carbon development and maximise energy and carbon savings, reduce embodied carbon, and increase resilience to the effects of climate change for all developments are embedded where possible. A 'direction of travel' interim document can provide details of expected future requirements to local trades and property developers.	Policy development/ council decision	2023-2025	Luton Council – planning service and climate change team	-	E	£££		Community engagement (through consultation on the plan)
Green jobs and Skills	Ensure that skills development for housing improvements is integrated within the work of the Employment & Skills Partnership Board and the Employment & Skills Strategy. This could include supporting apprenticeships and a module of an NVQ.	Policy development/ council decision	2023	Luton Council	Barnfield College and other education and skills organisations	E	££		Green jobs and skills

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Guidance	Once the Local Plan is reviewed, endeavor that there is planning guidance available to developers, households and landlords that clearly explains to them how they can comply with, and go beyond, the requirements on decarbonising buildings	Policy development/ council decision	Start 2023 paral. with Local Plan	Luton Council – planning service	-	E	££		Community engagement
New build	Provision of sufficient resources for communications about and enforcement of new building regulations to secure maximum compliance	Council led	2023	Luton Council - building control	construction sector businesses	E	££		Community engagement
New build	Publish a new build housing brief to specify the standard required for new council housing.	Policy development/ council decision	2023	Luton Council – housing strategy team		E	££		
Engagement	Consider establishing landlord licencing including phased energy efficiency improvements with EPC level and carbon reduction targets for the private rented sector. Secure sufficient council staff resource to enable enforcement of licences and existing requirements of MEES.	Council led	2023	Luton Council housing / environmental health	Landlord and residents' representatives	E	££		Community engagement
Retrofit council owned homes	Following the stock condition survey, set decarbonisation target date for Council owned homes and identify the first properties to retrofit as trials for new fabric improvements and heating technologies including considering district heat schemes. Monitor	Policy development/ council decision	2024	Luton Council housing / strategic energy team	Energy auditor / specialists	↓	££		-

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
	impacts on sample of individual homes.								
Carbon literacy, engaging the supply chain	Provide residents with access to impartial advice through information campaigns and sign-posting to existing information, both in the region and nationally. .	Partnership project	2024	Collaboration with neighbouring boroughs	Climate change team; neighbouring authorities, EELGA	E	££		Green jobs and skills
Green jobs and skills	Engage with supply chain of installers to encourage them to reach out to meet new demands. Support local suppliers to develop the required skills for implementing low carbon retrofit, including support in meeting the needs of public sector procurement.	Requiring leadership external to council	2024	Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce	Economy board, local trades networks, colleges	E	£		Local economic resilience/growth Green jobs and skills
Engagement / Retrofit	Retrofit zero carbon demonstration / show home(s) (council owned property) to provide real examples of solutions and benefits. Link to communication campaign about technology changes and benefits.	Council led project	2025	Luton Council Housing department	Energy specialists, architect, construction sector businesses	↓	££		Community engagement Green jobs and skills
Engagement	Encourage sharing of information about carbon reduction through the existing Private Landlords forum	Requiring leadership external to council	2025	Landlord representatives	Landlords, Luton Council housing department,	E	-		Community engagement
Retrofit council owned homes	Implement phases of council and other social housing improvements in energy efficiency, renewable deployment and zero carbon heating	Council led project	2027 +	Luton Council and Housing Associations (depending on ownership)	Residents, delivery managers, construction sector businesses	↓↓	£££		Reduce fuel poverty Improved health & wellbeing Green jobs and skills Resilience to climate change

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
									Local economic resilience/growth
Retrofit privately owned homes	Building on existing awareness raising (as above), work with neighbouring local authorities to establish a building retrofit support service and communications campaign about private sector low carbon retrofit. This will support landlords and home owners in deciding on approaches and applying for grants or other financial incentives.	Requiring leadership external to council	2027 ++	Partnership between various local councils and the retrofit Supply chain	Advisory agency, Assumes existence of central government scheme to provide financial mechanism	↓↓↓	£££	👤 👤 👤	Reduce fuel poverty Reducing (health) inequalities Improved health & wellbeing
New build	New housing developers to provide low carbon new homes built to the Future Homes standard	Requiring leadership external to council	2025	Foxhall Homes and other developers	Construction sector businesses	↓	£	👤	Green jobs and skills Resilience to climate change

2. Non-residential buildings

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Council estate	Energy performance monitoring and fabric surveys to provide detailed energy audits of all council buildings. In the context of an overall estate buildings strategy & asset management plan, develop a detailed action plan for improvements including expected capital and lifetime costs, ready for funding opportunities.	Council led project	2022	Luton Council – estates & energy management teams	Energy auditors contractors	E	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Energy efficiency	Enforce, where possible, minimum efficiency standards for privately rented commercial properties	Council led project	2022	Luton Council - trading standards	Local businesses	↓	££	👤 👤	Local economic resilience/growth
High standards for new build	Town centre development to provide leadership for change: to meet best practice design standards rather than just current building regulations, and to include the new football stadium development. District heating and shared renewable generation infrastructure should be included and designed for future expansion.	Council led project or partnership project	2022+	Luton Council	Energy/heat master planning specialists, local businesses, construction sector	↓↓	£	👤 👤 👤	Green jobs and skills Local economic resilience/growth Resilience to cc Reducing (health) inequalities Improved health & wellbeing Improved air quality
Energy in buildings	Encourage detailed energy audits of business and public sector buildings	Enabling activity by council and others	2022+	Businesses and public sector property owners	Local energy surveyors	E	£	👤	-
School buildings	Energy performance monitoring and fabric surveys to provide detailed energy audits of all schools. Develop a	Council led project	2022+	Luton Council – estates & energy	Schools / academies	E	££	👤 👤	-

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
	detailed action plan for improvements including expected capital and lifetime costs, ready for funding opportunities			management teams					
Council estate	Develop a funding strategy based on the needs of the estate buildings action plan, including consideration of innovative funding mechanisms	Council led project	2023	Luton Council – estates & energy Management teams, finance service	-	E	££		-
Council estate	Review the Capital Strategy and capital processes to take account of social benefits/ESG in impacts assessments. For example to allow for longer term payback on building improvements to enable new technologies to be implemented.	Policy development/ council decision	2023+	Luton Council – Finance, Procurement and Estates teams	-	E	££		-
Local Plan	Review and update the Local Plan to require high standards of energy performance and low carbon heat for new build and refurbishment of commercial properties based on best practice such as LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide and BREEAM 2018	Policy development/ council decision	2023-2025	Luton Council – planning service		E	£££		Community engagement (through consultation on the plan)
Engagement	Establish a Luton climate change partnership to co-ordinate regular energy and climate change related collaboration between business and public sector organisations to share best practice and enable joined up action.	Enabling activity by council and others	2023+	Luton Council 2040/climate change team with a partnership established to own it	Large energy users across the town	E	££		Business community engagement

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Heat networks	Develop more detailed heat network plan (based on existing heat mapping work and town centre master plan). Require connections for new developments through planning. Also scope out renewable energy planning related to new developments	Enabling activity by council and others	2023	Luton Council	Energy/heat master planning specialists, businesses, construction sector	E	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Energy planning	Collaboration with UK Power Networks regarding power network to secure sufficient capacity and connections for new developments and existing buildings	Enabling activity by council and others	2023	Luton Council		E	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Engagement	Provision of support and advice to local business on transition to net zero, potentially building on support being provided by Wenta and using Luton Heritage Forum	Council led project	2023	Luton Council economic regeneration and climate change team	Wenta or other providers	E	£££	👤 👤 👤	Local economic resilience/growth
Council estate and schools	Implementation of urgent and priority audit recommendations to move towards net zero in the council buildings and schools. Monitor impacts.	Council led project	2023-5	Luton Council – estates & energy management teams	Building contractors and associated trades	↓	£££	👤 👤 👤	Green jobs and skills
Building retrofits	Encourage business and public sector property owners to invest in retrofit to reduce fossil fuel use, improve energy efficiency and increase renewable generation across multiple projects	Requiring leadership external to council	2025+	Businesses and public sector property owners	Multiple projects requiring building contractors and associated trades etc	↓↓↓	£££	👤 👤 👤	Green jobs and skills Local economic resilience/growth Resilience to cc Reducing (health) inequalities Improved health & wellbeing Improved air quality

3. Transport and Active Travel

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Infra-structure changes	Through procurement policy (see governance action plan) enable choice of road materials with lowest carbon impact for future projects	Council led project	2022 +	Luton Council	-	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Modal shift - Active travel	Campaign for a car free day and promote behaviour change with businesses and residents	Enabling activity by council and others	2022	Luton Council	Local community groups	↓	£	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality; Improved health & wellbeing
Behaviour Change	Provide support for car clubs and lift sharing schemes through engagement with local schools and businesses	Enabling activity by council and others	2023	Luton Council	Local community groups; schools; local business	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality
Modal shift – Active travel	Work with schools, colleges and large employers to develop travel plans which decrease use of the car and increase walking and cycling	Partnership project	2022	Luton Council	Luton schools, colleges, and businesses	↓	£	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality; Improved health & wellbeing
Modal shift – Active travel	Develop targets and an action plan for optimizing mileage for Council business travel through travel planning	Policy development	2023	Luton Council	Luton Council employees	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality; Cost savings for council
Infra-structure changes – Active Travel	Promote cycling and walking in Luton through network improvements to create safe cycling and walking routes ¹ . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider cycle lanes / segregated cycle tracks 	Council led project	2023	Luton Council	-	E	£££	👤 👤 👤	-

¹ Underpinned by the Draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled crossing points for cyclists 'Active travel friendly' junction improvements Creation of 'quiet ways' 								
Electric Vehicles	Work with private sector partners to deliver EV charging infrastructure across the council estate for both council and public charging	Partnership project	2022	Luton Council	Luton businesses	E	£££		-
Electric Vehicles	The Council will undertake a fleet review, to identify a preferred pathway to electrify its vehicle fleet and inform a procurement strategy based on whole life costs	Council led project	2022	Luton Council	-	E	££		-
Other	All major residential and commercial planning applications to include a Travel Plan in line with current best practice and to facilitate provision of infrastructure needed to serve new developments	Policy development	2022	Luton Council	Developers	↓ ↓	£££		Improved air quality ; A thriving town centre
Rail	Improved connection between National Rail and Luton Airport on delivery of DART	External project to the council	2022	Luton Airport	Luton Council	↓	£££		Growing the airport
Modal shift – Active travel	Supportive measures to encourage modal shift to active travel, and monitor impacts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle training, Cycle hire schemes Cycle recycling scheme Community cycle clubs Low Traffic Neighbourhoods Driver awareness training and marketing and promotion. 	Council led project	2023	Luton Council	Luton schools, colleges, and businesses, community groups	E	£££		-

Electric Vehicles	The Council will undertake a hackney/PHV fleet review and work with operators to develop a pathway that increases EV uptake for these vehicles	Council led project	2023	Luton Council	-	E	££	🚶 🚶 🚶	-
Rail	Complete electrification of passenger rail through Luton through replacement of EMR Meridian by Hitachi bi-modes	External project to the council	2023	Network Rail	Luton Council	↓	£££	🚶 🚶 🚶	Improved air quality
Rail	Completion of Access for All Works at Luton (Town) and Leagrave to allow those with mobility challenges to use the railway locally	External project to the council	2023	Network Rail	Luton Council	↓	£££	🚶 🚶 🚶	More travel options
Modal shift – Active travel	Implement School Streets ² (traffic exclusion zones) for schools in Luton and Play Streets ³ to restrict traffic movements at peak times and encourage shift to active travel.	Partnership project	2023	Luton Council	Luton Schools	↓	£££	🚶 🚶 🚶	Improved air quality; Improved health & wellbeing
Electric Vehicles	To support residential EV charging and to develop the on-street EV charging network, the Council will create a dedicated e-form so residents can suggest new locations for EV charge points	Council led project	2023	Luton Council	Residents	E	£££	🚶 🚶 🚶	-
Rail	Return of EMR Intercity services to Luton Airport Parkway, encouraging those who live north of Corby to take public transport to the Airport	External project to the council	2024	Great British Railways	Luton Council	↓	£££	🚶	Growing the airport

² A School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic.

³ Playing out on your street <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/playing-out>

Alternative fuels	Interim action for diesel vans and HGVs in Council Fleet to be run on biofuels	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	-	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality
Electric Vehicles	Widespread EV infrastructure across the council estate for both council and public charging, starting with a phased roll-out of EV charge points at key council housing carparks	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	-	↓↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality
Electric Vehicles	The Council will, subject to viability, commit to delivering multiple fast, rapid or ultra-rapid charging points at its fleet depot to accelerate a phased transition towards EV use	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	-	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality
Modal shift	Road user charging e.g., Implement a workplace parking levy or Clean Air Zone to fund transport improvements	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	-	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality Revenue generation for council for local investment
Electric Vehicles	EV infrastructure at taxi ranks for drivers across Luton e.g. locations for exclusive 'taxi only' recharging points	Enabling activity by council/others	2025	Luton Council	Taxi companies	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality
Infrastructure changes	LED traffic signal infrastructure	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	-	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Public transport	Engage with and promote travel schemes and discounted tickets e.g. Arriva discounted tickets for organisations participating in a travel club, including bus fares for 17-21 year olds at 70% of the adult fare, 16 and under at 50%	Partnership project	2025	Luton Council	Local transport organisations, Arriva	E	£	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality Living and working well
Public Transport	Deliver bus priority measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strategic bus lanes on key routes (3km new bus lanes) improved access for buses to the town centre 	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	Arriva	↓↓	£££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic signalling priorities for buses 								
Public Transport	Work with the university to investigate how the various campus locations and halls could be connected by public transport	Partnership project	2025	Luton Council	University of Bedfordshire	E	£		-
Public Transport	<p>Improve the experience of travelling by public transport and communicate this to residents through a marketing campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved waiting facilities, Improved on board experience, Better ticketing, Cycle storage at mobility hubs <p>Employ several Bus Ambassadors</p>	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	Arriva	E	£££		-
Efficiency	Implement a local delivery hub to maximise the efficiency of deliveries / enable green 'last mile' services.	Partnership project	2025	Luton Council	Service providers	↓↓	££		Improved air quality
Other	Include zero (or low) emissions policy in taxi licensing, phased approach until 2040	Policy development	2025 +	Luton Council	Taxi companies, Councillors	↓↓	£		Improved air quality
Public Transport	Design and develop Park and Ride (Travel Hub) site	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	-	↓↓	££		Improved air quality
Rail	Maximise local and regional rail connectivity to Luton, from London, the Midlands and through interchange with East West Rail	Partnership project	2025	Luton Council	East West Rail	↓	£		Improved air quality
Public Transport	Work with London Luton Airport to develop a world class Sustainable Travel plan and outstanding bus connections with Luton and beyond. Hold airport to account on target of	External project to the council	2027	Luton Council	Luton Rising	↓↓	£££		Improved air quality

	45% surface access by public transport.								
Public Transport	Transition bus fleet to electric - introduce electric buses on the Luton Dunstable Busway network; and work towards Euro 6 by retrofitting existing fleet, all buses entering town centre to be zero or low emissions	Council led project	2030	Luton Council	Bus companies	↓↓	£££	👤 👤	Improved air quality
Electric Vehicles	Luton council suppliers' fleet to be EV (set target years for cars and vans). Include zero carbon vehicle requirements in all delivery contracts	Council led project	2030	Luton Council	-	↓↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Improved air quality
Pedestrianisation	Enforce pedestrianisation of key areas such as High Town and Bury Park high Street. Extend vehicle free spaces across Luton town centre.	Planning	2030	Luton Council	Luton businesses	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	A thriving town centre Safe and cohesive community Improved air quality
Rail	East West Rail complete between Bedford and Cambridge	External project	2030	Department for Transport	Luton Council	↓	£££	👤	Accessibility to public transport
Governance	Implement monitoring mechanisms e.g. Urban Traffic Management Control. Traffic data will be essential in planning and evaluating the effectiveness of AQ and carbon reduction interventions.	Council led project	2023+	Luton Council	-	E	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Governance	Establish a formal partnership with bus operators	Partnership project	2023+	Luton Council	Bus operators	E	£	👤 👤 👤	-
Governance	Incorporate place-based approach that accelerates the transition to a zero-emission road transport system for journeys that can't otherwise be made by active travel into the Local Plan	Council led project	2023+	Luton Council	-	E	££	👤 👤 👤	-

4. Luton Airport

Luton Council is the sole shareholder of the airport company, Luton Rising which has a long record of providing financial support for important community activities and services across Luton. Luton Council is therefore a key stakeholder in the Luton Rising Sustainability Strategy⁴ and Net Zero Strategy⁵. Luton Council recognises the responsibility to work closely with Luton Rising and the airport operator and tenants on meeting the needs of airport expansion in a way which enables Luton to meet the targets set to become a net zero town. Luton Council also take on the responsibility to monitor the implementation of the net zero strategies outlined by Luton Rising and the airport operator.

The below actions are taken from the Net Zero Strategy published by Luton Rising, with emphasis given where Luton Council can support delivery of actions.

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC/LR Staff	Co-benefits
Procurement	Construction: to minimise emissions from construction a whole life carbon approach will be taken for procurement. This will require adoption of circular economy principles and the use of low emissions construction vehicles and equipment	Policy Development	2022	Luton Rising	Luton Council – procurement team	↓↓	£	1	Green jobs and skills
Energy efficiency improvements	Airport operations: lighting upgrades and heating equipment	Infrastructure investment	2025	Luton Rising	Airport tenants and operators	↓↓	££	1	Green jobs and skills; Improved air quality
Energy efficiency improvements	Airport operations: introduction of occupancy-led building management systems	Partnership project requiring leadership external to council	2025	Luton Rising	Airport operator and tenants	↓	££	1	Local economic resilience/growth
Electrification	Airport operations and surface access: Promote the use of low	Engagement campaign;	2030	Luton Rising	Luton Council – transport	↓	£££	2	Improved air quality

⁴ <https://lutonrising.org.uk/our-planet/our-sustainability-strategy/>

⁵ <https://lutonrising.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Net-Zero-Strategy-1.pdf>

	emission vehicles and zero emission vehicles. Target is for capacity for recharging of 1/3 vehicles using the airport by 2030.	policy development			planning and highways				
Renewable energy	Airport operations: purchase gas from renewable sources e.g. biogas	Policy development	2025	Luton Rising	Airport tenants and operators	↓	-	♀	-
Renewable energy	Airport operations: generate energy from on-site sources, including waste e.g. solar farm development	Partnership project requiring leadership external to council	2035	Luton Rising	Airport tenants and operators	↓↓	£££	♂ ♀	Green jobs and skills
Other	Airport operations: establish a Community Carbon Offset Fund	Council led project	2035	Luton Rising	Luton Council	£	£££	♂ ♀ ♀	Local economic resilience/growth
Carbon removal	Airport operations: research and implement, where feasible carbon removal opportunities	Partnership project requiring leadership external to council	2035	Luton Rising	-	£	£££	♂ ♀	-
Energy efficiency	Surface access: freight consolidation and promote the proportion of full-load trips	Luton Rising project	2030	Luton Rising	Airport operator	↓↓	££	♂ ♀	Improved air quality
Active travel	Surface access: promote the increase of trips to the airport estates using active and sustainable transport modes	Engagement campaign; policy development	2025	Luton Rising	Luton Council – transport planning	↓↓	£	♂ ♀	Improved health & wellbeing
Electrification	Surface access: EV points where possible and ensure all new builds provide the infrastructure required to meet government standards	Infrastructure investment	2030	Luton Rising	Airport operator	↓↓↓	££	♂ ♀	Improved air quality
Electrification	Surface access: provide infrastructure to support the use of	Infrastructure investment	2030	Luton Rising	-	↓↓	££	♂ ♀	Improved air quality

	low emissions public transport and freight vehicles								
Innovation	Aviation: engage in supply of sustainable aviation fuels and support for electric aircraft	Partnership project requiring leadership external to council	2040	Luton Rising	UK airlines	↓↓↓	£££	👤👤👤	-
Monitoring	Luton Council to monitor the implementation of the action plan and enforce policy changes where relevant	Council led project	2022 +	Luton Council	Luton Rising, airport operator, tenants	E	££	👤👤👤	-

5. Waste and consumer choices

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Community engagement	Public awareness campaign on waste prevention through changing patterns of consumption and its connection to climate change e.g. Edible High Town program to educate on composting	Council led project	2023	Luton Council – waste team	Waste contractor	↓	£££	👤 👤 👤	Living and working well Safe and cohesive community
Waste management	Work with the waste contractor and the public to improve policy enforcement to reduce waste contamination and extra waste, including awareness raising and feedback to the public and landlords	Partnership project	2023	Luton Council – waste management team	Waste contractor, private sector landlords	E	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Waste management	Compliance with national legislation to provide separate food waste collection by 2025 for residential and schools waste. Explore the impact this has on carbon emissions and develop measures to mitigate this.	Council led project	2025	Luton Council – waste management team	Waste contractor Schools and schools' food providers.	E	££	👤 👤	-
Waste management	Review and procure waste disposal contact to incentivise waste reduction and increase recycling rates, including carbon metrics across the waste streams	Council led project	2025	Luton Council – waste management team	-	E	££	👤 👤 👤	-
Community engagement	Community and business partnership initiatives applying waste minimisation and circular economy principles: examples such as collaboration on methods to reduce	Partnership project	2025	Community organisations business forums	Partnership between council and organisations specialising in/using	↓	££	👤 👤 👤	Skills for the future Safe and cohesive community Transforming lives through arts...

	food waste in hospitality businesses and swap shops and repair cafes.				circular economy principles				
Food Plan	<p>Review the Luton Food Plan and consider developing a Food Strategy, taking on board the Government Food Strategy (2022) and recognising that nutrition and sustainability are interrelated and can no longer be tackled in isolation.</p> <p>Promote a more plant-based and low food miles diet within the council culture and work directly with schools</p>	Partnership project	2025-2030	Luton Council – public health department	Luton schools Food Poverty Alliance	↓	£	👤 👤 👤	Improved health and wellbeing
Retrofit	Installation of carbon capture and storage technology to all energy from waste plants. To be made a requirement for future waste contracts.	Policy development	2040 onwards	Luton Council – waste management	Partnership between council and waste contractor	↓↓↓	?	👤 👤	Green jobs and skills

6. Biodiversity and resilience

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Flood risk funding	Continue to apply for government funding for flood and water management schemes	Enabling activity by council	2022+	Luton Council – flood risk team and finance department	Environment Agency	E	£		-
Flood risk vulnerability	Emergency preparedness: In advance of extreme weather events, work with the Public Health system to identify which social groups are most vulnerable and identify suitable interventions, based on recommendations from national climate change response plans:	Policy development	2022	Luton Council – flood risk team, public health, emergency planning team	Hospital / Primary care Trusts	E	£		-
Local Plan	Review and update the Local Plan to ensure policies to increase demands on developers that support resilience. Examples include development of sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) and meeting minimum targets for green space and tree cover through green roofs and tree planting.	Policy development	2023-2025	Luton Council –planning service and flood risk team		E	££		-
Biodiversity project	Formally establish the River Lea Linear Park to make the river corridor more accessible as a walkway through the town – involving links to river restoration	Council led project	2025	Luton Council parks and countryside team	River Lea Catchment Partnership; Affinity Water		££		Improved health and wellbeing

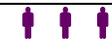
Planting project	Increase access to allotments and equivalent spaces for growing food.	Council led project	2025	Luton Council	Local community groups	E	£		Improved health and wellbeing
Planting project	Identify tree planting opportunities across the Borough to work towards increasing the tree cover by 1 hectare by 2025 (with progress monitored).	Council led project	2025	Luton Council – planning department and parks and countryside team	Community groups		££		Improved air quality Improved health and wellbeing
Planting project	Increasing biodiversity and increase carbon capture in highway verges and grass land where appropriate, with related public information provision about changes.	Partnership project	2025	Luton Council – parks and countryside team, highways team	Partnership between council and organisations such as Natural England		££		Improved health and wellbeing Resilience to climate change
Community engagement	Work with the community to manage risks of flooding, through public awareness campaigns, building community's ability to prepare for and react to surface water flooding events. This builds on the lessons from the Luton and Dunstable Resilient and Adaptive Communities (RAC) project. For example schools projects to replace concrete surfaces	Enabling activity by council and others	2025	Luton Council – flood risk team	Central Bedfordshire Council, Environment Agency	E	££		-
Resilience	Develop a borough-wide assessment of climate vulnerability (a climate risk assessment), and use this as the basis for action planning for improved resilience	Council led project	2025	Luton Council – climate change team, emergency planning and parks and	Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum	E	£		-

				countryside team					
Planting project	Luton Council will actively seek to develop the Town Centre Masterplan to increase the amount of meaningful green space for community use. Link to the BLMK Integrated Care Strategy action to improve biodiversity and green estates where possible.	Council led project	2030	Luton Council – parks and countryside team, town centre team, climate change team, public health	Health Care providers		£		Safe and cohesive community A child-friendly town

7. Council governance and operational systems

Headline action	Description	Action type	Time	Delivery owners	Delivery partners	Carbon impact	Cost	LBC staff	Co-benefits
Governance	Ensure that all new strategies include a clear statement about how the strategy will contribute to net zero	Policy development	2022-2040	Luton Council – Councillors and senior officers	Across all council departments	E	£		-
Governance	Set interim targets against which progress towards net zero can be monitored and define indicators for the monitoring of all emission reduction actions	Monitoring	2023	Luton Council – climate change team	Across all council departments	E	££		-
Governance	Choose and implement a decision-support tool to enable scrutiny of all council decisions for their impact on carbon emissions (e.g. Cornwall decision wheel)	Council decision	2022	Luton Council – climate change team	Executive; overview and scrutiny committee	E	££		-
Governance	Consider establishing a dedicated delivery board to oversee delivery of this action plan	Council decision	2022	Luton Council – climate change team	Executive, councillors, key community and business stakeholders	E	£		-
Collaboration frameworks	Aim to influence the development of national policies to support the local net zero transition, through representation on groups of councils campaigning for change such as for example UK100 and/or LGA.	Partnership project	2022	Luton Council – senior officers, climate change team,	Other local authorities	E	£££		
Collaboration frameworks	Establish collaboration partnerships with local public and private sector organisations to enable sharing of	Partnership project	2023	Luton Council – climate change team	Local public and private	E	£		

	best practice and economies of scale for similar activities. Linked to suggested Luton Climate Change Partnership (see buildings section) but potentially wider geographic scope to cover BLMK Health and Care Partnership.				sector organisations				
Collaboration frameworks	Promotion of carbon action across council departments e.g. through Climate Champions or Officers' Working Group	Council led project	2022	Luton Council – climate change team	Across all council departments	E	£		-
Carbon literacy	Ensure that the LGA Councillors' workbook is highlighted to all Councillors	Council led project	2022	Luton Council – climate change team	Councillors	E	£		Green jobs and skills
Carbon literacy	Arrange carbon literacy training for all councillors, and ensure this is included in induction for new councillors going forward	Council led project	2022	Luton Council – climate change team, democratic services	Councillors	E	£		Green jobs and skills
Carbon literacy	Arrange carbon literacy training, made relevant to each function, for all council staff	Council led project	2023	Luton Council – climate change team	All Luton Council officers	E	££		Green jobs and skills
Carbon literacy	Organise, and seek funding for, free carbon literacy training for community groups and in schools	Council led project	2025	Luton Council – climate change team, adult learning team	Community groups, schools	E	££		Green jobs and skills; Quality education for all; Skills for the future
Citizen engagement	Build on initial citizen engagement around this action plan to develop and maintain a citizens' panel to co-design and monitor action on carbon emissions and climate resilience	Council led project	2022	Luton Council – Climate Change Advisory Board, community development team	Councillors, council officers, community groups, businesses	E	££		Green jobs and skills; Safe and cohesive community; A town built on fairness and social justice

Citizen engagement	Develop a Local Area Energy Plan to enable households and businesses to better understand the decarbonisation options appropriate for them	Council led project	2023	Luton Council – climate change team	UK Power Networks; university affiliation	E	££		Reduced fuel poverty; Improved health & wellbeing
Citizen engagement	Encourage schools to sign up to the Ashden ‘Let’s Go Zero 2030’ campaign	Partnership project	2023	Luton Council: schools team; climate change team	Luton schools	↓	£		
Procurement	Ensure that the social value framework used by the council addresses climate change	Policy development	2022	Luton Council – procurement	Luton Council – climate change team	E	£		-
Procurement	Ensure all major procurement is scrutinized using the council’s decision support tool (see ‘governance’)	Policy development	2022	Luton Council – procurement	Luton Council – climate change team	E	£		-
Procurement	Council to act as leader in ensuring that climate change impact is considered as part of procurement decisions, and influence large local businesses to follow this example.	Policy development	2023	Luton Council – procurement	Luton Council – Climate change team; local businesses supplying the council	E	£		
Procurement	Develop a detailed plan to transition all council procurement to net zero requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All suppliers to be required to have in place plans to transition to net zero All services delivered to the council to be net zero Where applicable, goods purchased to be net zero in-use (e.g. fleet vehicles, 	Policy development	2025	Luton Council – procurement	Luton Council – climate change team	↓↓	££		-

	heating and cooling systems)								
Investments	Assess the impact of the council resolution calling for the development and adoption of responsible investment policies by the Bedfordshire Pension Fund.	Policy development	2023	Luton Council – finance	Luton Council – climate change team	E	£		-
Finance	Develop plans for projects that will implement the action plan, so that when funding streams become available, it is possible to apply for them within short timeframes. These plans should include identification of delivery partners, to help the council spend funding allocations within timeframes that are sometimes very short	Council led project	2023 +	Luton Council – Climate change team	All Luton Council officers	E	££		-
Finance	Review of capital strategy with the view that investment is prioritised to achieve net-zero and all investment mitigates negative environmental impacts	Council led project	2023 +	Luton Council – Climate change team and finance team		↓ ↓	££		
Finance	Include ESG reporting in council reporting to move social value and environmental impacts up the agenda	Council led project	2023 +	Luton Council – climate change team	All Luton Council officers	E	££		-