| **ID** | **Action** | **Update: March 2024** | **Impact** | **Control** |
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| **Transport - Reduce number of car trips and freight journeys by:** | | | | |
| T1 | Reviewing our Joint Local Transport Plan to confirm the policies which will substantially cut greenhouse gas emissions, including reviewing our transport major scheme programme to prioritise our schemes in terms of their carbon and environmental impact. | The date for adopting an updated JLTP4 has been deferred to Spring 2025, as the Department for Transport's LTP guidance has still not been published. The milestones have been revised with an initial focus on submitting a package for CRSTS2 funding by Summer 2024. | High | Direct |
| T2 | Increasing the pace of transport decarbonisation by progressing plans and implementing demand management measures | Formulation of a bid for CRSTS2 (2026/27 to 2031/32) is also underway. An update to JLTP4 timescales is provided above. The time required to achieve the necessary permissions for fiscal traffic restraint options will be considerable. | High | Direct |
| T3 | Supporting councils in their efforts to strengthen car parking policies and prioritising accessible locations and sustainable travel in new development through their Local Plans | This work is ongoing through work on the JLTP. See T1 for more information. Officers are also engaging with the UAs on their emerging local plans including sustainable development principles. | Low | Influence |
| T4 | Developing detailed plans for a liveable neighbourhood in Bristol and confirming areas to deliver liveable neighbourhoods in B&NES and South Gloucestershire with a view to rolling out a programme of delivery across the region to reduce reliance on cars. | We have successfully worked with Bristol City Council to develop the East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood project to statutory consultation on trial measures in advance of launch. This trial scheme is now expected to begin in summer 2024 following a delay due to the Barton House emergency evacuation. We have additionally worked with Bristol City Council on a successful funding application to develop a Full Business Case for the South Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood project. We have continued to work with South Gloucestershire Council on their ongoing work to develop Full Business Cases for Liveable Neighbourhoods in Yate and Thornbury, including the completion of initial public engagement work. We have continued to work with Bath & North East Somerset Council on their ongoing Full Business Case for the B&NES Liveable Neighbourhood programme. 3 on-street trials have been successfully completed through experimental traffic orders in January, with a further 5 planned. | Medium | Influence |
| T5 | Launch and trial Mobility as a Service scheme – a one-stop-shop to deliver a regional digital journey planning, booking, ticketing, payment and information solution | Design development is ongoing. Project is progressing through Beta testing. MVP planned for spring 2024 with public launch later in the year. | Medium | Direct |
| T6 | Explore and secure investment in further innovative transport solutions and services to reduce car and freight trips (including alternative fuels such as electricity, hydrogen and biofuels) as well as social and planning innovation. | As reported under action T21, we have successfully secured funding to build on our region’s hydrogen economy; and, as last reported, we have established horizon scanning opportunities for further innovation funding. | Medium | Direct |
| **Transport - Increase walking, cycling & wheeling by:** | | | | |
| T7 | Delivering 16 (TCF, ATF and CRSTS) walking, cycling & wheeling schemes and work with partners to submit applications for additional schemes to future active travel fund (round four). | A total of 16 walking, cycling and wheeling delivery schemes are in progress. Working with Bristol City Council, we have successfully completed the delivery of the Cotham Hill scheme on site. Construction has successfully begun and is ongoing on the Old Market Gap project. Contractors have successfully been appointed on the Park Row project. Working with South Gloucestershire Council, design continues to be developed on the Kingswood Town Centre Links project ready for construction in 2024. Ongoing work continues on the development of Full and Outline Business Cases for a further 5 projects under CRSTS and 6 schemes under the Investment Fund. This includes progress on the Full Business Cases on Scholars Way and Bath Quays Links, working in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council. A further 7 pipeline schemes are being developed under the Active Travel Fund and Investment Fund. | Medium | Influence |
| T8 | Deliver 30 cycle hangars in Bristol, and explore feasibility of wider regional rollout | Work to deliver 80 new cycle hangars on residential streets across the West of England is ongoing. A public engagement exercise was successfully completed in November 2023 to ask the public for locations. | Medium | Direct |
| T9 | Deliver walking, cycling and wheeling routes within new strategic transport corridors being delivered under the CRSTS, integrated with delivery of green infrastructure. | We have successfully submitted the Outline Business Case for the preferred package of measures on the Somer Valley Links project for committee approval, including substantial investment in improved active travel. We have successfully completed public engagement and consultation on the Bath City Centre and Bristol to Bath Strategic Corridors, including on a wide variety of active travel measures alongside bus priority and green infrastructure interventions. Work is ongoing for Business Cases for these two projects. | High | Influence |
| T10 | Deliver improved walking, cycling and wheeling facilities across Yate Station, Ralph Allen School in Bath, Concorde Way and Clapton Road in Midsomer Norton; and subsidising rental schemes and training, including Bristol Family Cycling Centre via £680k investment | Delivery of the behaviour change initiatives using this funding allocation is progressing well, with over 600 participants recorded to have taken part in one or many of the Unitary Authorities’ behaviour change events by the end of 2023. These activities are expected to complete by March 2024. Separately, the Combined Authority is proposing to use a £27,000 allocation of the Capability and Ambition Fund 22/23 to deliver a centralised communications campaign, with a focus on promoting walking and cycling journeys to school and supporting the Modeshift travel to school programme. In terms of scheme development work being undertaken with this funding, consultation and preliminary design work has been completed for new links to Ralph Allen School and Lyncombe Vale in Bath, with further design work and topographical surveys planned for spring 2024. In South Gloucestershire, scheme planning and design for improved walking and cycling links to Yate Station are planned to be developed in 2024. In Bristol, public consultation work has concluded for improvements to the Concorde Way, supporting the development of improvements which are being developed for this route. | Medium | Influence |
| T11 | Supporting councils and regional partners in their walking and cycling initiatives including working with employers and communication campaigns, and in traffic management schemes | With an additional £340k funding from the Active Travel Capability Funding for 2023/24, we are continuing to provide ongoing support to the Unitary Authorities on the delivery of walking and cycling behaviour change initiatives in their area, including cycle training, bike maintenance, business grants and engagement events with schools and businesses. This funding, along with over £1m from the Active Travel Fund Tranche 4, has also been on ongoing work to develop, design and plan schemes for a pipeline of future walking and cycling infrastructure improvements. The CA have successfully supported the instillation of 54 cycle hangars to provide secure cycle parking in the region, with a further 80 planned. New and upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure is being successfully installed at Cotham Hill and Old Market, with more schemes due to break ground in 2024. | Low | Influence |
| **Transport - Increase uptake of public transport by:** | | | | |
| T12 | Run ‘WEST Link’ fleet of ‘on demand’ minibuses to connect people to our bus corridors (Demand Responsive Transport) | We are currently proposing substantial changes to the system based on learning over the last 9 months. | Medium | Direct |
| T13 | Deliver Dynamic Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) trial in north Bristol to connect people to major employment opportunities and other key destinations such as Southmead Hospital | Service ongoing. 6-month evaluation report in review. | Medium | Direct |
| T14 | Build 13 green roofed solar-powered bus stops, as well as improving wildlife areas around them, this year and deliver up to a further 300 in subsequent years under CRSTS through to March 2027 | NA | Low | Direct |
| T15 | Implement fare capping in place for adult single trips and develop a single ticket solution to simplify residents’ journeys across the region through BSIP. | Free bus travel for Care Leavers was successfully launched in October 2023. Options are now being considered for Fares Package 3 with the aim to launch in April 2024. | Medium | Direct |
| T16 | Improving frequency and accessibility of trains through delivery of new train lines and stations (via MetroWest Phase 1, Phase 2 and CRSTS), | Works to open a new station at Ashley Down in 2024 are progressing well. A new footbridge was successfully installed at the station over Christmas 2023. Half hourly Gloucester line and Westbury line rail services introduced in May 2023 and funded for the 3-years. Further development funding was approved to enable South Gloucestershire Council to contract Network Rail to undertake detailed design development works for a new station at Charfield. | Medium | Influence |
| **Transport - Increase uptake of electric and net zero fuel vehicles by:** | | | | |
| T17 | Delivering up to 256 electric vehicle charge points and up to 362 charging bays by investing £5m (informed by EV Investment Proposal, agreed at April 2022 WofE Committee) | The Full Business Case for the EV infrastructure GRF scheme was approved by West of England CEOs on June 28th, 2023, however legal issues have since impacted the granting of these funds to UAs (Subsidy Control Act 2022). Work done to assess options to find a compliant way forward was completed in September 2023, and three options were down-selected by Combined Authority - Corporate Leadership Teams for further development. All three options were developed until one option was left as the only way forward within constrained budget and time constraints: listing the GRF scheme as a subsidy. In December 2023 we took this option to CLT with the request to post subsidy while supporting documents developed in parallel, however CLT have asked for these docs to be completed before listing the subsidy. These documents will be reviewed, and a decision taken on way forward by CLT on Feb 13th 2024. | High | Direct |
| T18 | Commence a new contract for micro-mobility to enhance escooter hire provision and introduce on-street ebike hire in the Bristol Bath areas | Successful launch of service in Bath and Bristol urban area. Transition stage ongoing, and on track to meet contracted service levels by end of transition stage (April 2024). | High | Direct |
| T19 | Deliver our sustainable urban freight trials, introducing e-cargo bikes in university and hospital campuses, ‘parcels as passengers’ on coaches and ‘local high-street aggregator’ to consolidate local neighbourhood deliveries | Monitoring and Evaluation of trials ongoing. | Low | Influence |
| T20 | Supporting our councils in maintaining Clean Air Zones and in their electrification and decarbonisation of their fleet by publicly backing them | The EV Charging Action Plan was published and agreed at January 2024 Combined Authority Committee. B&NES and BCC CAZs continue to operate successfully. | Medium | Influence |
| T21 | Build our region’s hydrogen economy by exploring opportunities for green hydrogen electrolysis and piloting application of hydrogen as a transport fuel in sectors difficult to electrify (including HGVs operating locally, such as busses and in goods distribution) | GW-SHIFT: Great Western Supercluster of Hydrogen Impact for Future Technologies’ is a partnership between Combined Authority together with the University of Bath and fellows from the GW4 Alliance, Western Gateway, Hydrogen Southwest, Great South West and SETsquared. This £2.5m funded project will drive the development of hydrogen skills, infrastructure and technology through this colalborative partnership and over the next four years. The Combined Authority has also led a consortium of 10 partners, securing almost £1m funding to develop a Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan for the area of Avonmouth, Severnside and Royal Portbury. | Medium | Influence |
| **Transport - Reduce the impact of our transport systems on nature by:** | | | | |
| T22 | Agreeing a regional framework for how transport projects will minimise their impact on nature, through interventions such as nature-based solutions to road run-off, wildlife kerbs, and regular and targeted cleaning of gullies. | Work is ongoing, and we have successfully agreed to fund South Gloucestershire Council to develop of a business case for 'Reducing chemical and particulate load in highway run off’ using nature based solutions. The Environment Directorate are also working with infrastructure colleagues to consider how we can integrate our work on pollinators into our infrastructure plans. | Medium | Influence |
| T23 | Agree regional priorities for retrofitting of existing transport infrastructure to reduce its impact on nature | This work is ongoing, through discussions with infrastrucutre colleagues. Strengthened GI resource is required to accelerate progress and provide leadership on deliver of the Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan. | Medium | Influence |
| **Buildings and Places - Increase the energy performance of homes and buildings across the region** | | | | |
| BP1 | Run the Retrofit Accelerator Phase I Homeowner Advice Service to increase the scale and pace of retrofit, creating a hub for homeowners to access information on retrofit . Forecast to advise 10,600 households, resulting in 5,250 homes being surveyed and delivering 4,200 measures in 1,400 households over the next 2 years | Retrofit West Advice service delivery is ongoing by Retrofit West CIC. Their marketing campaigns are showing traction and they have delivered 3432 pieces of advice, and issued 446 home assessment vouchers, of which 134 had been claimed to end January. A new website has been launched. The service is working closely with the Unitary Authorities and the Combined Authority to raise awareness and develop comms and engagement approaches. | High | Direct |
| BP2 | Expanding the domestic retrofit supply chain via the £2m Retrofit Accelerator Phase IIa, supporting a minimum of 350 small and micro businesses, and Phase IIb (£200k) to integrate retrofit understanding and awareness into our FutureBright coaching service, and other skills offerings | A Retrofit West CIC led consortium bid to deliver the Business Support project which was approved for funding in January 2024. The consortium of seven partners are regional retrofit leaders. Aimed at enabling businesses to build knowledge and confidence to transition into the retrofit market, it is anticipated sessions will begin to be offered in April 24. | High | Direct |
| BP3 | Deliver the Innovative Housing Retrofit Scheme, insulating 50-75 hard-to-treat homes within the region; and seek funding to expand the scheme to further demonstrate new approaches for wider roll out (e.g. offsite manufacturing) | Innovative Housing Retrofit Scheme (IHRS) projects are ongoing and are providing valuable lessons from the retrofit of hard-to-treat properties regarding design, build and tenant engagement. These lessons are invaluable as the social housing landlords plan to retrofit their estates at speed and scale. | Medium | Direct |
| BP4 | Carry out up to 400 free carbon surveys for small & medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to help them understand and reduce their energy use, carbon footprint and other environmental impacts | Report under Business & Skills theme. | NA | NA |
| BP5 | Provide c225 SMEs with grant funding to make energy saving improvements and install renewable energy via a new £2m Green Business Grant fund | To date £214k from the £2m pot has been awarded to 31 businesses, with a median grant award of £5,151. | Medium | Direct |
| BP6 | Promote grant-funded domestic retrofit programmes in our region including those via the South West Net Zero Hub , Warm & Well in South Gloucestershire, Energy at Home in Bath & North East Somerset and City Leap domestic retrofit in Bristol | Delivery of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 continues in the region, working with local social housing providers to fund £35m upgrades to 780 properties by March 2025. Work is still ongoing for Local Area Advice Demonstrator. Currently working with 5 partners. 2 partners fall within the West of England region. These projects have run events and already engaged with over 700 members of the public since October 2023. One of the projects focusing more on developing planning and assessment criteria within the local council (BaNES) for historic buildings in line with the new guidance. All projects will continue into 2025 so we expect to see more information and more engagement delivered in the near future. | Medium | Direct |
| BP7 | Work with public sector partners and the South West Net Zero Hub to secure funding, develop strategy and deliver decarbonisation projects on public land and buildings | The Hub has successfully supported public sector organisations to prepare and submit PSDS Phase 3c applications, with the aim of securing capital funding for their decarbonisation projects. Applications are currently going through technical assessment and grant offer letters are expected to be distributed by the end of March 2024. Phase 3c has a £230m pot of funding (available in 2024/25). 443 applications at a value of £1.3bn were received while the portal remained open, making it a competitive scheme. The Hub has also successfully organised a webinar specifically about the decarbonisation of schools, as our research has revealed their poor energy performance. Following the event, we received positive feedback and support requests from multi-academy trusts. Our support to them – and any other public sector organisations that aim to decarbonise their estate – is ongoing. We have also successfully collaborated with DESNZ on reviewing the LCSF scheme. | High | Influence |
| BP8 | Develop a range of sustainable funding mechanisms for retrofit and the transition to non-fossil fuel reliant heating within the region to secure private and government funding | The consultant consortium led by Gemserv provided draft report to Hub and CA for comment on 15 December 2023. This Treasury Green Book Full Business Case investigates the potential to establish a pan-regional £100m retrofit loan fund, using public subsidy and investment to leverage in private capital. This was successfully completed in March 2024. Ongoing work sees the CA and SW Hub engaging with potential investors to establish appetite for progressing £100m fund, with fall-back option for CA of establishing smaller independent West of England loan pot. | High | Direct |
| BP9 | Develop our retrofit approach by improving our knowledge on existing housing and retrofit requirements – working with funders to collect data needed in securing investment | The Combined Authority has joined a consortium led by Bristol, succesfully securing £5m of funding for the region. A quarter of this resource and work will be used in ongoing work, developing a net zero investment platform for the West of England. | Medium | Influence |
| **Buildings and Places - Increase the number of new carbon neutral homes and buildings being developed that deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) by:** | | | | |
| BP10 | Publicly support Local Councils and the South West Net Zero Hub in adopting and enforcing net zero and BNG new build standards for new developments across the region through local planning policy | The Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on ‘Planning – Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update’, published on 13 December 2023, seeks to curtail the use of local policy approaches for net zero new developments. Metro Mayor Dan Norris raised this in Parliment at the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee; recommending the Government reverse this WMS. MCA officers continue to engage UA officers in the West of England in efforts to still adopt and enforce net zero; working with the Hub to coordinate this across the South West. On BNG, 10% requirements have been introduced nationally. The MCA is convening and coordinating efforts across the West of England to ensure best use of BNG credits in supporting Nature Recovery. Further details in the Nature Recovery section. The Hub, B&NES, and the University of Bath have successfully published a report on the industry’s response to the Council’s net zero planning policy (introduced in January 2023). This was presented at the Key Cities Innovation Network Symposium that took place in Wrexham in November 2023. We have now been invited to extend this into a full-length article for a peer-reviewed special journal. | High | Influence |
| BP11 | Review and coordinate regional development and adoption of innovative environmentally-positive design and construction approaches (such as Bristol Housing Festival establishing a Regional Centre of Excellence in Housing Innovation; and Design Codes incorporating wildlife habitats such as swift boxes) | NA | NA | NA |
| **Buildings and Places - Reduce reliance on fossil-fuel based heating by:** | | | | |
| BP12 | Coordinate rollout of heat pumps with local councils and National Grid Electricity Distribution, to accelerate rollout and maintain electricity grid resilience accommodates transition | Work here is ongoing. The MCA have continued coordinated engagement with NGED, as well as National Grid Transmission and ESO; and the regulator Ofgem. This includes our and UA role in Regional Energy System Planners. MCA and UA officers are also coordinating a response to the Government's Heat Network Zoning consultation, which will identify areas for heat networks; and conversely, areas where buildings will be dependent on heat pumps for heat decarbonisation. | Low | Influence |
| BP13 | Develop a heat pump engagement and collective buying scheme, with corresponding local supply chain support, targeting delivery of an additional 1000 heat pumps across our region over 2 years | Work is Ongoing. The MCA has coordinated meetings UA officers, Retrofit West CIC, CSE and Bristol City Leap. Concept supported and refined. Meeting again early January to develop concept of supply chain engagement. Supply chain engagement to be used to specify concept, for it to then be costed for development. The 1000 target of over 2 years once developed is ambitious (doubling historic installation dates). The next steps in developing this concept are to engage heat pump supply chain. This will continue into Q1 2024/25. If viable, this scheme will need to come to Committee if MCA resource is needed to develop this further. | Medium | Influence |
| BP14 | Agree cross-border collaboration agreements to support expanding the Strategic Heat Main within City Leap and other heat networks across the West of England | The CA engagement with Vattenfal on developing the strategic heat main is ongoing. This includes engaging them on potential linkages between projects on heat from mines, the West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan, and in preparing the MCA's response to heat network zoning. A rethink of the wording for this action, given all Local AUthorities have been collaborating on this - and the introduction of Heat Network Zoning and local government based heat network zoning coordinators in 2025 has informed a revised action. | High | Influence |
| **Nature Recovery - Improve the quality and connectivity of existing spaces for nature and wildlife by:** | | | | |
| NR1 | Deliver improvements to existing natural green spaces such as through Common Connections.£3m in Chew Valley Lake, developing investable business cases for improvements at Bath Riverline and Waterspace Connected. | We have ongoing oversight of the three Green Infrastructure projects. Common connections is in delivery stage and is improving 22.9 Ha of grassland, creating 10 Ha of tree canopy and creating or improving 18 ponds. Most of the project delivery is due to be completed by January 2024. There was a delay in installing grazing infrastructure, which was meant to be completed in December 2023. The milestone for introducing the grazing animals has been moved from June 2024 to October 2024. The FBC for Chew Valley Lake is ongoing, the timelines have been revised. Construction start date was forecast for July 2024, now revised to June 2025 due to lack of commitment and communication challenges from the landowners Bristol Water. The FBC will include a habitat creation scheme and details of the new 6 km footpath route, designed to protect the natural capital assets and ecosystem services including SPA and SSSI. The FBC for WaterSpace Connected is ongoing. The project is a continuation of the Bath RiverLine project and will create a new 36 Ha nature reserve and the project is focussing on improving 3.1km of river corridor. Approximately one month delay due to difficulty appointing a bridge design team. | Medium | Influence |
| NR2 | Deliver access improvements to existing water (blue) spaces including £3m investment at Chew Valley Lake and developing business cases for improvements at Bath Riverline and Waterspace Connected. | As above | Medium | Influence |
| NR3 | Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy that provides a coherent regional vision and map for nature’s recovery, building on the West of England Nature Recovery Network and helps direct investment effectively into the natural environment | The draft LNRS has been produced, in partnership with Supporting Authorities and key stakeholders, and with the benefit of extensive engagement. Public consultation planned for mid-March 2024, assuming no objections raised by Supporting Authorities on the Consultation Draft or any objections can be resolved before then. Final LNRS to be complete by early-to-mid-July 2024 | High | Direct |
| NR4 | Develop a regional agreement for public sector bodies to reduce the use of pesticides on their estates, with an aim of eliminating use altogether. | Work is ongoing. More action is required on a regional agreement for public sector bodies. The Combined Authority-funded pesticide reduction campaign has reached over 50,000 people through a mixture of social media, website case studies and workshops. | Medium | Influence |
| NR5 | Provide residents access to volunteer in nature recovery projects and the natural environment jobs market via Pollinator Fund, Green Futures, Community Support Fund and other grassroots skills programmes | The Pollinator Fund has awarded funding to projects that are expected to engage more than 5,000 volunteers for a combined 49,000 volunteer hours by 2025. Suggest Andy to input for GRF projects as some have big volunteering figures. | Medium | Influence |
| NR6 | Plant more trees and create habitats along strategic corridors and rivers (incl. CRSTS and strategic nature recovery networks) | This work is ongoing, in partnership with the Forest of Avon Trust, and the Woodland Creation Accelerator. We are also working with colleagues in infrastrucutre to explore a 'best in country' pollinator project that is delivered as part of an infrastrucutre project, strengthening our work towards becoming the Pollinator Capital of the UK. | Medium | Direct |
| NR7 | Develop a monitoring framework (data platform and ecological baseline) for the regions natural environment to enable us to measure progress towards our ambitions, including the possibility to use a wildlife index to measure abundance and diversity of wildlife amongst the current ecological network | We have procured an open data portal which will provide nature evidence for the region and will host the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and present it in a way that is attractive and accessible to users to enable action on natures recovery. Partners will also have the opportuntiy to publish data and showcase their efforts to protect nature. | Medium | Direct |
| NR8 | Develop innovative new ways of observing and monitoring the natural environment | This work is ongoing. We are working with partners in the West of England Nature Partnership to identify an appropriate model for measuring and reporting biodiversity, including the commissioning of a new Data Portal to support work in this area, and to host the Local Nature Recovery Strategy when it is published. | Medium | Direct |
| NR9 | Set up a region wide project that aims to understand the health of, and management approaches applied to the region’s protected sites. | As above | NA | NA |
| NR10 | Create capacity that will enable UA and partner priorities (WENP prospectus) to be developed into investment ready projects, and source varied and innovative funding options. | We have used Leveling Up funding to produce a Strategic Outline Business Case to support development of a landscape scale nature recovery programme in the limestone link, Bathscape, lower woods landscapes, building on the WENP prospectus of priority nature recovery projects. This is an innovative way to set priorities for nature recovery at scale, supporting business case development and the ability to access private and public finance. Working with UAs we are using Green Recovery Fund to develop a pipeline of investable projects across the region. | Medium | Direct |
| NR11 | Work with West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) and Natural History Consortium (NHC) to raise awareness of and engagement with the natural environment, and encourage conservation volunteering and pro-environmental behaviours (City Nature Challenge, Team Wilder, Festival of Nature) | NHC have been commissioned to support our engagement work on the LNRS both pre and during the public consultaiton, and in additon to this are supporting MCA and WENP to develop resources to support businesses in their jouney to recognising their impact on nature and contributing to natures recovery. We successfully fund 0.5 fte Project Support officer to support WENP Manager, and work collaborateively on many projects, including commissioning Atkins to develop a Strategic Outline Business case for landscape scale nature recovery in the limestone link, Bathscape and lower woods landscapes. | Medium | Influence |
| **Nature Recovery - Create new spaces for nature and wildlife by:** | | | | |
| NR12 | Launch the second round of the Community Pollinator Fund to increase the number and quality of habitats for pollinators and bees across the region | Awarding of grants from round 2 was completed by December 2023, with a total of 56 grants awarded. Round 2 projects are projected to create/improve 39.2 ha of habitats, bringing the project total to 62 ha to date. The Community Pollinator Fund will move in 24/25 to identification of a large-scale strategic pollinator project for the region with a grant of up to £400,000 available, whilst evaluating the impact of round 1 and 2 projects. Ongoing work to support R1 and R2 projects and monitoring. | Medium | Direct |
| NR13 | Provide evidence to support councils’ local plans and planning policy to create new spaces for nature and wildlife and protect existing spaces linking in with regional biodiversity objectives, including those set out in Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree and Woodland Strategy. | LNRS Project Manager (BANES employee, part funded by MCA) continues to engage regularly with Heads of Planning on the preparation and development of the LNRS, which will have a formal link with local plans. Also, Senior Manager, Nature Recovery, Chair's Natural Environment Officers Steering Group to ensure all authorities working together to deliver CESAP and other strategies. | Medium | Influence |
| NR14 | Promote and embed the West of England Placemaking Charter for creating high quality, biodiverse places that support access to nature and encourage health and wellbeing | Work is ongoing. MCA's Senior Manager for Nature Recovery is working with the MCA's Head of Place to align planning and environmental strategies, including the LNRS, and Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, to ensure maximum opportuntiy to create high quality, biodiverse places that encourage health and wellbeing. | Low | Direct |
| NR15 | Ensure that transport and planning projects delivered by the Mayoral Combined Authority positively contribute towards nature’s net recovery, including delivering at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain | Work on this is ongoing, though has been stalled by staff departure. Environment Team are engaging with Infrastrucutre team to support with delivery of BNG, but this area of work would benefit from additonal resource to accelerate progress. | NA | NA |
| NR16 | Together with WENP and the Forest of Avon Trust, renew and continue to accelerate action in delivering the Forest of Avon Plan. Includes investment of £730,000 for the Forest of Avon Trust for woodland creation, including 50,000 broadleaf trees in diverse habitats | Work is continuing successfully at Great Avon Wood to plant/conserve 50,000 trees following our investment through the Green Recovery Fund. We also supported Avon Needs Trees with their successful application to DEFRA's Lanscape Recovery Fund, and are funding Forest of Avon Trust tree technicians through the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund. | High | Direct |
| NR17 | Work with Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to identify actions and investment required to deliver the Bristol Avon Catchment Plan and the Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy to improve the health, biodiversity and resilience of our water courses, wetlands and river catchments. | We are working with Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership to support projects that improve the health and resilence of our water courses. This includes work on delivering the Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy, and through the LNRS. | Medium | Influence |
| **Nature Recovery - Enable business, other stakeholders and residents to contribute to nature’s recovery, including unlocking investment in nature-based solutions by:** | | | | |
| NR18 | Develop and promote the biodiversity footprint concept, to engage and inform businesses about how they can make changes to their supply chain to support nature. | We continue to work to engage with businesses and have comissioned NHC to procure resources to support this work. Our Senior Manager for Nature Recovery spoke on a panel at a business biodiversity event at Osbourne Clarke in Autumn 2023, and we will launch our Bee Bold Awards 2024 there in Feburary. | Medium | Influence |
| NR20 | Develop an approach to enabling and collecting citizen science data, to engage people with nature and support decision making. | Work on this is ongoing. The open data portal which we have procured is a key component in supporting citizen science activity. This will enable community groups to publish their data and tell stories about their work. We will engage with the Wessex Citizen Science Local Pilot to support their aspirations in 2024. | Medium | Influence |
| NR21 | Hold further Bee Bold Awards and create targeted business campaigns to support businesses create habitats and support polinators. | The Bee Bold Awards 2024 launched in February with a business engagement event in Bristol City Centre. A targeted campaign for engaging businesses with nature is being drawn up, including case studies of leading organisations, which will take place across 2024, alongside the Bee Bold Awards. | High | Direct |
| NR22 | Develop platforms that enable businesses to invest in the natural environment (e.g. Bristol and Avon Catchment Market) | We are working to support UA colleagues to implement statutory BNG. Our work to prepare the LNRS will, for example, ensure that BNG and other forms of private finance is channelled into priority areas for our region's nature recovery. | High | Influence |
| NR23 | Work with the agricultural community to understand needs and land use options to unlock investment for nature, aiming to create a coalition of agricultural partners igned up to support nature recovery | We have successfully completed the first stage of engagement on the preparation of the LNRS, and thepublic consultation will provide a further opportunity for the agriculatural community to comment on prioruty areas. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust are leading work to establish farm clusters in the region, which will also be explored through the Business Case for the Limestone Link. Farm clusters are seen as important in engaging farmers with strategic priorities for nature in the region. | High | Influence |
| NR24 | Using regional skills programmes including Multiply and Workforce for the Future to build skills required for ecology and natural environment sector. | Reported under Business and Skills - BS13 | NA | NA |
| **Business & Skills - Support businesses to transition to low emission, sustainable practices and adapt for climate resilience by:** | | | | |
| BS1 | Carry out up to 400 additional free carbon surveys using £416k funding to help small & medium sized enterprises (SMEs) understand their energy use and low carbon solutions; and seek funding to widen the scope and number of businesses eligible for a survey | 87 carbon surveys has been completed since April to January. These provide businesses with an understanding of their energy usage and low carbon options to support grant applications and business planning. | Medium | Direct |
| BS2 | Deliver a new £2m Green Business Grant fund to help approx.225 SMEs to make energy saving improvements and install renewable energy, based on findings from a low carbon business evidence base | Reported under Buildings & Places - BP5 | NA | NA |
| BS3 | Increase our understanding of the scale of the challenge and support needed to decarbonise small & medium sized enterprises in the region, through commissioning a low carbon business evidence base and intelligence gathered from the Growth Hub | Low Carbon Business Evidence Base completed by Future Leap consultants. Findings have been used to set the terms for Green Business Grants, Rooftop Solar Grants and Heat Pump Grants to ensure appropriate intervention rates. Findings on the low carbon business sector and commercial buildings to be disseminated through a stakeholder webinar. | Low | Influence |
| BS4 | Pilot a Rooftop Generation Grant to encourage the use of larger business premises to boost solar PV generation capacity. | Reported under Net Zero Energy - NZE2 | NA | NA |
| BS5 | Deliver more carbon & nature literacy support for businesses to improve their understanding of climate and ecological emergencies and actions they can take to help decarbonise and build resilience through website resources and 4 events per year. | All GH Execs have undertaken Carbon Literacty training and have identified individual and team committments to increasing awareness of opportunities for businesses to reduce carbon. Alongside support for businesses to reduce carbon the GH team are preparing to engage with businesses on the nature and biodiversity agenda. | Low | Influence |
| BS6 | Develop a focussed net zero Growth Hub route to sit alongside the embedded activities already in place, to advise SME businesses on net zero journeys with a year-on-year increase in the number of businesses supported. . | Q3 Growth Hub stats: 804 GH Newsletter clicks for Green Grants and Surveys; 1,875 unique visits to the Green Pillar on the GH Website; 613 GH sustainability / environmental interventions; 69 direct GH referrals to Low Carbon Grants / surveys | Low | Direct |
| BS7 | Investigate the benefits and ways in which the Mayoral Combined Authority could support a regional transition towards circular economy principles. | Work is ongoing to develop a strategy for the inclusion of circular economy principles in our regional strategy and a framework for this which maximises potential benefits of this whilst working with existing priorities and goals. | Low | Influence |
| BS8 | Explore opportunity to recognise businesses’ positive actions through green digital badging, aligned to our Good Employment Charter (which has sustainability running through each of its pillars) | Work is ongoing, reviewing implementation of green digital badging and collaboration with climate resilience activity across the organisation, for example promotion of nature recovery and the Bee Bold Awards. | Low | Influence |
| BS9 | Develop a peer-to-peer support programme to promote innovation and environmental transition, including becoming nature positive, via mentoring, sharing best-practise and networking events | Elements of this is being met through the Good Employment Charter, work on which is ongoing with an established monthly peer-led learning meeting which regularly includes climate resilience topics. Regular collaboration on these meetings and promotion of materials and resources to businesses alongside Environment team and related projects. | Low | Influence |
| **Business & Skills - Ensure local people can access green jobs and bring 23,000 green jobs across the region by:** | | | | |
| BS10 | Deliver green careers advice universally to school aged children and young people via the Careers Hub and seek funding to build on the Green Futures Fund pilot. | Business Case approved by Directors. The £300k will be used to fund delivery of five projects that will deliver against the long term impact objectives outlined in the project logic model. • More young people pursue and successfully achieve green career pathways • Inequality is reduced for students who face additional barriers to the workplace. • Employers are able to recruit diverse local talent, increasing diversity within the workforce of the future • Employers are able to fill their vacancies and skills gaps in the green economy are reduced. One project (LMI digital resources) has been procured and delivery has started. The other four projects will be grant funded through an open application funding call which is now live (deadline March 6th 2024). Evaluation and Monitoring support is being currently procured. Thought the funding the following outputs will be achieved:- - 200 young people take part in Experiences of the Workplace - 50 Employers offer an experience of the workplace - 10,000 primary and secondary students take part in large scale careers events - 80 teachers take part in Continuous Professional Development - 240 young people take part in a progressive programme of targeted activity - All young people in the region have access to ‘Green’ digital labour market information Currently waiting for applications to be returned on other stream. Once assessed awards will be given and delivery will commence. Delivery would be expected to commence September 2024 over a two year period. Further experience of the work place Large cale event focusing on green industries, reaching 10,000 students - CPD and employer engagement - 80 teachers Mentoring for disadvantages groups to consdering green roles - 240 students | Medium | Direct |
| BS11 | Use business engagement to understand what skills / knowledge they need in place to meet the 2030 ambitions to inform our skills provision including Skills Connect, Good Employment Charter and Skills Bootcamps. | The Good Employment Charter has 162 active supporters and 4 members. 494 businesses and 16,832 employees are engaged through support, resources, and events. | Low | Influence |
| BS12 | Use Skills Connect to support individuals to access information, advice and guidance on green jobs through the Retrofit Accelerator Phase IIb, FutureBright, Skills Connect and Green Skills Bootcamps | LA Skills Connect delivery partners continue to provide information, advice and guidance pertaining to green skills opportunities within the region. With the support of the Green Skills Manager this advice has been extended to Future Bright coaches and DWP work coaches. Skills Connect has successfully launched with its own designated site to Green Skills offering advice to residents. The site has received over 60 unique hits since launching. Work is continuing to develop a consistent approach to classifying green roles applying the IfATE national approach. Next development will be to write these green occupational maps onto the Skills Connect site to provide further clarity around career progression and opportunities with the green space and adopt these classifications across the skills service. | Medium | Influence |
| BS13 | Deliver Workforce For The Future, aiming to support over 450 SME businesses and 1000 residents access skills and training including green skills | Workforce for the Future completed December 2023. Final evaluation report to be completed March 2024 | Medium | Direct |
| BS14 | Deliver Green Skills Bootcamps for residents as part of our £5.1m Wave 4 programme, focusing on retrofit; green transport; and organisational sustainability | Funding for Wave 4 was secured, with a total allocation of £700,874.69 for Green Projects in both call one and call two. The funded projects encompass areas such as Organisational Sustainability, Upskilling for Retrofit, Retrofit Advisors, Assessors, Coordinators, Construction using green techniques, and training for electrical installation charging points. Specific marketing campaigns and employer events have been launched to stimulate demand.w | NA | NA |
| BS15 | Publish and use the findings from the South West Skills Study from the South West Net Zero Hub to build on the West of England Green Skills Analysis Report to inform our provision of retrofit and green skills | Procurment of new skills study for the SW region in line with DESNEZ requirments for evidence to deliver retrofit skills funding via the SWNZH from April 2024. Gemserv succesful bidder. Study to conclude March 2024 | Low | Direct |
| **Business & Skills - Prepare business for emerging green economies by:** | | | | |
| BS16 | Support 350+ domestic retrofit small and micro businesses through the Retrofit Accelerator Phase IIa, to raise awareness, train and increase accreditation | Reported under Building & Places theme - BP2 | NA | NA |
| BS17 | Leverage national funding for large scale initiatives (such as demonstrators, networks, living labs) and support manufacturing and engineering industries to innovate new sustainable technologies and supply chains | The West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan was succesful in securing funding for this £750k revenue funded plan. This work is reported in the Net Zero energy theme. | Medium | Direct |
| BS18 | Support SMEs to innovate new sustainable technologies through delivery of the Business Innovation Fund and Digital Engineering, Technology and Innovation (DETI), and Made Smarter programmes | Successfully delivered the Digital Engineering, Technology and Innovation Programme. The Made Smarter programme is ongoing and continues to support manufacturing SMEs with the adoption of industrial digital technologies such as AI, VR, robotics and automation; it has one more year of delivery but is in the last phase of recruitment with few spaces left for production based organisations. It might be extended to March 2026 incl additinal funding. The Business Innovation Fund is ongoing with 6 R&D projects that aim to tackle the climate and/or ecological emergencies supported to date. Another grant round is being prepared for a March 2024 launch and SMEs undertaking such activity will aggain be encouraged to apply. | Medium | Direct |
| BS19 | Develop innovative green financial and delivery models, including those unlocking investment in nature-based solutions and supporting organisations in the West of England FinTech Strategy | Green finance investment work in its initially envisaged format is paused for a rethink,due to the authority considering its overall investment activities in the future, and also due to a dedicated role having been created and officer onboarded in the environment directorate, now undertaking more holistic work in this respect. A new workstream is ongoing for business and nature recovery, focussing currently on engagement activities. | NA | NA |
| BS20 | Revise our regional procurement strategy to include environmental weighting alongside social value in procuring sourced goods and services. | Changes to the Procurement Act 2023 are being worked through the procurement team's ways of working, in order to enable adoption of more flexible practices regarding procurement for social purpose and innovation. This will further enhance ongoing work on social value strategy. | Medium | Direct |
| BS21 | Use Invest Bristol & Bath to create a campaign to attract new green businesses to the region, targeting a third of new businesses attracted to the region via Invest Bristol & Bath to be focused on green jobs | Green Energy and Low Carbon Campaign – Nuclear SW pro active campaign to be scaled down.  Ongoing support to the new giga battery centre at Gravity. Lack of land in the WoE for battery related enquiries but focusing on supply chain opportunities. Early stages discussions on Heat networks supply chain investment prospectus. Agri Tech campaign - Working with DBT and SW partners to deliver AgriTech Showcase 2024 (21 March). Space West, BRL and LetusGrow engaged with the programme by IBB. | Low | Direct |
| **Net Zero Energy - Increase renewable energy generation across the region, including through local, community focussed generation by:** | | | | |
| NZE1 | Deliver £1.5m funding for Sustainable Innovative Finance Foundations for Wind Turbines (SIFFFT) to bring 10 sites to landowner agreement and 3 sites securing planning through a community led model across the region, providing a pipeline of up to 70MW of investable onshore wind projects with shared learning for other communities. | The SIFFFT project has sucessfuly completed phase 1 of the Local Authority x3 land search and initial identification of possible sites. Two Community Groups engaged and non-disclosure agreements signed. First on-site ecology surveys underway. Ongoing work on land agreements, pre-planning applications and wider community engagement on renewables. | Medium | Direct |
| NZE2 | Rollout rooftop solar, including £569k for Bristol Energy Co-Op to install over 2MW PV targeting rooftops of SMEs, schools and community buildings; piloting a Rooftop Generation Grant scheme encourage the use of larger SME business premises to boost solar PV generation capacity; and launching a second round of solar bulk-purchasing solar PV scheme open to residents and businesses | Round 2 of Solar Together West of England bulk-purchase scheme for domestic solar installs is in the survey and installation phase. Sucessfully exceeding the numbers registering from the previous round with 37% more sign-ups. 1,150 pre-installation surveys booked wth customers. Surveys and first installations are ongoing. Bristol Energy Co-op are sucessfully progressing with their project pipeline, preparing roof lease agreements with two sites. First 50kW installed in 2023 Q2, estimated £6.8k energy cost saving for site. New site engagement and solar roof installation programme is ongoing, with the first installs in B&NES and South Glous areas due late spring. LES3 Revenue application window sucessfully launched. | Medium | Direct |
| NZE3 | Seek sustainable funding for free local energy advice provision for residents seeking help in coping with their energy bills | Three organisations in the West of England - Severn Wye Energy Agency, Bath & West Community Energy and the Centre for Sustainable Energy - have been succesful in securing funding for Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) funding via the SW Net Zero Hub. Their Ongoing work will see BWCE and CSE delivering events and in-person energy advice. This includes running a Green Open Homes event in November '23 which succesfully attracted 788 attendees; with 67 of these signposted to RetrofitWest. Directors of the MCA and UAs approved investing £208k in providing local energy advice at end of November '23. This will provide grant funding to help resource the existing service in South Gloucestershire. A tender has succesfully been launched for £148k to provide freephone energy advice in Bristol and Bath and NE Somerset Council; this tender includes flexibility to allow additional funders to invest in the provision of this service. A small proportion of budget will be used once advice is operational to engage and raise profile of freephone advice for households most in need. | Medium | Direct |
| NZE4 | Fund the Local Energy Scheme round 2 capital projects and launch a third round for development and capital funding of over £600k to support community led projects, including ‘smart’ energy systems. | Bath & West Community Energy's Fairy Hill Gorund mounted solar array in Compton Dando has been submitted for Planning Permission. Ongoing with a decision due after March 2024. Cleveland Pools project sucessfully installed heatpump infrastruture on the River Avon - the robustness of , which was tested in the floods in Jan 2024. LES3 Revenue pot for renewable and smart energy projects application window sucessfully launched and the evaluation and award process is ongoing. | Medium | Direct |
| NZE5 | Support public sector partners across the region developing major capital projects through the South West Net Zero Hub provision of free local technical assistance | In the West of England, the hub is providing ongoing support to SGC to develop the business case for a rooftop solar programme, and has successfully completed a review of an initial proposal for 256.56kWp additional solar at Bradley Stoke leisure centre. Ongoing support to B&NES has resulted in a formal request for support in developing the finance case for solar canopies at P&R sites. The hub is working with NGED to determine the likelihood of connection opportunities for ground mount solar for N Somerset - project development ongoing. Neither GWAAC nor BWCE were successful in their applications to NGED for accelerated connection for their ground mount solar schemes (but support for both projects is ongoing nonetheless). Marshfield energy group submitted an EOI to the MCA’s Local Energy Scheme fund, and was referred to Retrofit West to access their funding. | Medium | Influence |
| NZE6 | Work with National Grid Electricity Distribution and partners to bring forwards renewable generation approved but not yet operational renewable electricity generation | National Grid Distribution are a partner on Mission Net Zero (see new action), and have succesfully run connections workshops with UAs and community energy groups the MCA is funding. Ongoing work by officers is seeking to engage and help facilitate acceleration of renewable energy grid connections que. In addition, MCA is engaged with National Grid ESO and Ofgem in developing Regional Energy System Plans, and is seeking to input into plans for the UK's first Strategic Spatial Energy Plan - who Gov are due to commission the ESO to produce in early 2024. | High | No control |
| NZE7 | Explore the opportunity for capturing heat from mines, working with the UK Coal Authority to expand investigations in South Gloucestershire and Bristol’s eastern fringe across the region’s former coal workings across Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset | The MCA succesfully launched £1.6m investigations into heat from mines at Radstock Museum on the 24 January. Input from this and follow-ups with UAs and others, a paper is going to Environemt Directors for approval on how this funding delivers derisking of this significant heat decarbonisation potential opportunity- broadly summarised in the 2024 ongoing action. The SW Net Zero Hub have awarded a contract to Sustainable Energy Ltd (SEL) to investigate above ground heat distribution opportunities. | Medium | Direct |
| NZE8 | Explore innovative water sources of heating and cooling including from our harbours, rivers and sea | Work is ongoing. In process of joining the Celtic Sea Cluster (CSC) Strategic Board regarding the development underway of the brand new industry of floating offshore wind (FLOW). Meeting between CEOs of CSC and Mayoral Combined Authority scheduled for Q2. Current focus of developing innovative sources of heat and cooling has been via heat from mines work (see seperate action update on this). | Medium | Influence |
| NZE9 | Input into Severn Estuary tidal energy commission via Western Gateway | MCA Officers are on Western Gateway's low carbon energy working group, whose work includes reviewing recently commissioned study an up-to-date evidence base and framework for sustainable energy in the Severn Estuary. | Low | Influence |
| **Net Zero Energy - Work in partnership to develop new smart approaches to the decarbonisation, storage, management and distribution of energy by:** | | | | |
| NZE10 | Increasing energy innovation funding coming to the region, working with partners such as our region’s universities, R&D companies, Innovate UK and Energy Systems Catapult and National Grid (formerly Western Power Distribution) | Work on the West of England Industrial Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan has succesfully started - see details here: [MCA press release] And also on Bristol's Mission Net Zero (see new 2025 action) MCA inputted and supported a UWE-led consortium bid to InnovateUK's Accelerating Green Economy Centres focused on retrofit. | Medium | Direct |
| NZE11 | Work with National Grid and our local councils to develop proposals to trial new flexible and other innovativesolutions as lower cost alternatives for grid reinforcement and to deliver additional renewable energy generation | This action is reported on in actions NZ6 and NZE8-NZE10. Hence marked as completed. | Low | Influence |
| NZE12 | Investigate and support deployment of viable conjoined renewable electricity ‘private wire’ and virtual ‘synthetic’ networks connected to local communities | This action is reported on in actions NZ6 and NZE8-NZE10. Hence marked as completed. | Low | Influence |
| NZE13 | Review and collect evidence to develop regional heat and electricity decarbonisation pathway scenarios to net zero and the role different interventions will play (e.g. energy storage, renewable electricity, heat pumps and renewably fuelled heat networks) | Both the MCA's bid for developing a Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan (LIDP) for the West of England's industrial area; and Bristol's 'Mission Net Zero' bid have been succesfull. These provide the funding to develop robust regional decarbonisation pathways, evidencing the investment needs and roles different technologies and place-based contributions needed to achieve net zero | Medium | Direct |
| NZE14 | Developing a coordinated approach with National Grid and local councils to locate new homes, buildings and infrastructure linked with renewable energy generation and storage to overcome grid constraints | CA engagement with National Grid and Ofgem on this is ongoing; and linked to the establishment of Regional Strategic Energy Plans (RESPs). These will be the stronger link sought in the CESAP local spatial planning, energy infrastructure planning, investment, and the UK Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (to be developed by National Grid ESO over 2024). Whilst seeking to shape how these are established and ensuring they benefit from input, including that from NZE13's 2024 action (see above); the CA continues engagement as and when needed with NG to shape delivery of energy schemes the CA or partners are involved in. | High | Influence |
| NZE15 | Engage communities and energy groups on the roles they can play in delivering smart energy solutions and provide information to them on our green careers and opportunities programmes | To note. New Community Energy Fund Manager is Katherine Rooney in the SWNZH The Community Energy Fund aims to: 1. Increase the level of community and locally owned renewable and low carbon energy assets to make progress towards the Government’s net-zero carbon emissions targets 2. Support communities by helping them to reduce energy costs or generate income through community owned energy assets, reinvesting income locally, or services to reduce energy demand. 3. Promote growth through the creation of jobs and volunteering opportunities in the communities where projects are located. The Fund will achieve its aims by removing barriers to investment that are currently preventing the development of community-scale projects. Size of fund: £1 million per financial year, (2023/24 and 2024/25) with 10% of that available for project costs, so at least £900k per year to be allocated as grants. Application rounds: There will be multiple application and assessment windows between December 2023 and March 2025. Window 1 opened in December and closed on 15th Jan 2024. Window 2 is likely to open soon (Feb or March 2024 all being well). Target timeframes for application and assessment windows will be published on the Hub webpages - (this is not yet done), and publicised widely. To enable a more agile and responsive approach, detailed dates for the opening and closure of application windows will be published and shared as and when each window is confirmed. Number and value of applications for Window 1: SW area total: 17 applications, value £538k. Of which this number were from the WECA area: 7 applications, value £280k. Update from WECA: A brefing session with Community Energy organisations was sugessfully held to provide them links to supported Green Skills and Jobs opportunities offered by the Combined Authority. | High | Direct |
| **Climate Resilience - Climate Resilience** | | | | |
| CR1 | Work with Met Office to develop a regional ‘Climate Pack’ – identifying the anticipated future climate change for the region | The Met Office has successfully produced a regional climate pack for the CA. Work is ongoing to tailor the material for different audiences in the region - focused on strategic partners, residents & business/organisations - and preparing for web publication. | Medium | Direct |
| CR2 | Convene regional conversations and collect evidence to understand the impacts of climate change and adaptations needed, particularly focused on those communities most vulnerable and least able to adapt. | Climate resilience engagement with residents is ongoing and will use the regional engagement programme as our main outreach channel. High-level messaging led by the CA will include hearing from people about their lived experience, the needs of their communities and their resilience in the face of the climate and ecological emergencies. Work is ongoing to develop these messages with the Mayor and through the Climate & Nature Panel, where engagement activities will be used to collect this evidence. | Low | Influence |
| CR3 | Develop a regionwide heat vulnerability assessment to identify areas of high risk of overheating during heatwaves – expanding on Bristol’s heat vulnerability mapping to inform management of housing, parks and green spaces parks, tree planting and management | We are reassessing the adoption of a regionwide version of the Bristol heat vulnerability mapping, to ensure we are picking up on wider work being done by South Gloucesterhire on health and flood impacts. We will review the mapping and create a selection of maps for hosting on the data portal. | High | Direct |
| CR4 | Establish a regional steering group overseeing development of an Adaptation Plan distilling West of England priorities for early action from NAP3 | MCA (along with South Gloucestershire UA) has committed to Adaptation Reporting Power 4 (ARP4) pilot for Local Government, submitting report end 2024. Discussions with UAs and other partners, wider governance arrangements & setting-up task and finish group. | High | Direct |
| CR5 | Work with the local councils and Local Resilience Forum run by Avon & Somerset Police to strengthen regional public service resilience to climate change | Infrastructure Director has joined A&SLRF Executive Group, ongoing discussions regarding collaboration and interfaces wth the MCA's climate resilience work. | Low | Influence |
| CR6 | Support regional climate change risk assessments across the region’s sectors to increase climate consideration & help standardise approach | The ARP4 report will include an initial climate risk assessment. | Medium | Direct |
| CR7 | Work with National Grid, Wessex Water, Bristol Water and other local infrastructure providers to understand regional infrastructure resilience to the impacts of climate change. | Developing engagement programme to steer priority regional discussions with UAs and regional partners. | Medium | Influence |
| CR8 | Coordinate regional review and application of West of England Sustainable Urban Drainage guidance for new buildings and infrastructure with unitary authorities | Discussions with EA including setting-up a strategic regional flood group. | Medium | Influence |
| CR9 | Support the Bristol Avon Flood Strategy feasibility work completed in last two years, commencing delivery of Phase 1 of flood defences, and coordinating a regional approach to flood defences and mitigations | Letter of support sent to Bristol City Council to set out MCA's commitment to the BAFS, assisting progression of OBC for BAFS through Environment Agency review. | High | Influence |
| CR10 | Assess and ensure Mayoral Combined Authority capital investments consider the impacts of and are integrating resilience to climate change impacts | The CA has successfully recruited a Senior Manager for transport in the Environment Team. Their ongoing work with colleagues aims to develop the CAs approach to the environment including considering climate risks and build-in climate resilience, working closely with the Climate Resilience Manager. | Medium | Direct |
| CR11 | Identify and embed opportunities within advice to businesses (in particular, low carbon surveys and grants provision) to support them to build resilience to climate impacts | Work is ongoing to widen the scope of business support, initially looking at climate resilience and nature recovery, starting with overheating risk and cooling demand. | Low | Direct |
| CR12 | Ensure the Retrofit Accelerator and other retrofit projects consider and improve buildings’ climate resilience | Work is ongoing to review how retrofit projects can support climate resilience, starting with overheating risks and possibly widening scope to cover other risks. | Medium | Direct |
| CR13 | Deliver green and blue infrastructure and nature projects (in Nature Recovery section) to help address impacts of climate change | The LNRS consultation draft has objectives and priority areas shaped by climate risks, helping to increase nature's resilience to impacts and maximising opportunties to mitigate risks through nature-based solutions especially natural flood management. | High | Direct |
| CR14 | Working with WENP and other partners to develop an approach to assessing local-level biodiversity loss and the measures required to enable local threatened species to adapt. | Delivered through nature recovery actions, including exploring data sets that fill evidence gap on climate change impacts. | Medium | Direct |
| CR15 | Build evidence on land used for food production in our region and how this could be impacted by climate change to develop a regional food production strategy | Discussions between UAs and MCA on regional priorities. | Low | Influence |