

Business and Economy

Updates to this sheet are shown in red with original text as 'strikethrough'

Key:

Current Project Stage

- In discovery (research, fact finding, gather evidence)
- In design (develop techniques/plan for delivery)
- In delivery (executing plan agreed at design)
- Completed (work has been finished)

RAG rating

- Green - action delivery on track/to agreed timelines (may be agreed to start at a later date)
- Orange - some delivery off track/timelines, further work to be completed
- Red - significantly off track/timelines, or may no longer be possible

Action ID	Objective	Action	LCC Role	Who may be involved	Timescales	Cost to Leicestershire	Carbon Saving	Deliverability Score	Project Status	RAG	December 2023 Update
Policy and Strategy											
E1	1, 2, 3, 4	Deliver the Economic Growth Strategy and ensure economic plans and programmes support the net zero transition.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Universities Chamber	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	Yellow	Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) is actively implementing the Innovation strand, including initiatives like the Zellar platform offering 100 free licenses to businesses. Through this 114 tonnes of CO2e have been saved and £151k in energy costs.
E2	1, 2, 3	Develop a Digital Strategy and consider the role of digital technology and skills in delivering net zero targets, including smart metering, artificial intelligence, weather modelling, smart grids, 5G rollout, enabling flexible working solutions etc.	Lead	LLEP	S	L	M	18	Design	Red	The County Council has developed a Digital Strategy pending updated mapping of 'hot spots'. This strategy awaits political approval and an associated action plan.
E3	1, 2, 4	Develop an Inward Investment Strategy which considers low carbon goods and services.	Lead	Leicester City LLEP	S	L	L	9	Discovery	Yellow	To be progressed
E4	1, 2, 3	Develop the Freeport around East Midlands Airport integrating low carbon solutions and pilots.	Lead	Freeport partners	M	L	L	6	Delivery	Green	The East Midlands Airport Green Futures initiative has been launched, featuring projects to decarbonise the airport and surrounding area. Notably, the airport now has two net-zero buildings.
E5	2, 4	Develop a pipeline of projects to enable raising of capital and innovative investment models, linking to development of the Net Zero Funding Strategy and specific opportunities such as the Levelling Up agenda and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Lead	Districts LLEP	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery	Green	LCC's Economic Growth Team collaborates with districts to influence the use of The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Some districts incorporate green initiatives with Rural Prosperity Fund grants. Hinkley and Bosworth DC has allocated funding for green initiatives and plans are underway.
E6	4	Provide consistent policy which stimulates growth in the low carbon goods and services sector.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery	Yellow	Leicestershire County Council is committed to responding to government consultations when they arise.
Business Support											
E7	1	Provide support to businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and develop low carbon goods and services through the Growth Hub provision.	Ask	LLEP Growth Hub Leicester City Chamber Business	S/M	H	H	7.5	Design	Green	The Growth Hub is under review amid the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership transition. Although grants are unavailable, the Growth Hub is promoting the UKSPF funded Leicestershire Business Advice Service (LBAS). Ongoing webinars and programmes like 'Made Smarter' support innovation, and some Leicestershire companies have been successful at this. The successful Pathfinder Places bid will also provide support to businesses through a new advisory service.
E8	1	Explore opportunities for business training, education and events.	Ask	Chamber Growth Hub LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Design	Green	East Midlands Chamber hosts various green events, while a green skills document and action plan produced by Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and Leicestershire County Council are awaiting approval.
E9	1	Evaluate the Zellar platform pilot and determine next steps.	Ask	LLEP	S/M	L	L	7.5	Delivery	Green	A successful pilot project assists businesses in calculating their Carbon Footprint, with upcoming steps focused on encouraging businesses to utilise platforms like Zellar for digital assistance.
E10	1, 2, 3, 4	Support businesses to reduce costs and mitigate against energy price rises and ensure continued growth and job creation within the renewable energy sector, through generation of on site renewable energy and development of joint ventures for large scale local energy projects.	Ask	Midlands Net Zero Hub Government	M	H	H	6	Design	Green	Partners are progressing this work and elements will be supported by the Advisory Service which will be developed as part of the Pathfinder Places project.
E11	1	Support landowners and land managers to access economic support including the Environmental Land Management Scheme, and Biodiversity Net Gain opportunities.	Lead	LPA's LRF NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8	Design	Yellow	Leicestershire County Council has been raising awareness awareness of potential Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) sites for credits when enquiries come in, and supporting queries on specific planning applications. This work will be progressed further at a later date.
E12	1, 5	Promote green tourism and green business opportunities in the county and review the tourism growth plan to support net zero ambitions and opportunities.	Lead		S/M	M	M	10	Design	Green	The Council has been collaborating with the National Forest to explore a countywide scheme for businesses. Funding is secured to deliver a low-carbon toolkit for businesses in 2023-24.
E13	1, 4	Promote best practice through case studies and communications.	Lead	LLEP	M	L	L	8	Delivery	Green	Continuous efforts are made by LCC and the LLEP through weekly e-bulletins, the Growth Hub and social media channels.
E14	1, 2	Consider options for low carbon business to business mentoring, peer support and knowledge share.	Ask	LLEP Leicester City Districts Chamber	M	M	L	2	Design	Green	The LLEP is progressing work in this area including webinars and events for businesses to collaborate.
E15	2	Enable innovation through innovation pilots and dissemination of knowledge.	Influence	BEIS Innovate UK KTN	S	M	L	6	Delivery	Green	The Leicestershire Innovation Festival 2023, the largest to date, showcased 20 events. The upcoming Feb 2024 edition will focus on supporting business to reduce carbon emissions.

E16	1	Work with others to gather evidence on the large greenhouse gas emitters in Leicestershire.	Ask	LLEP Universities Leicester City	S	M	M	12	Delivery	The LLEP has supported a feasibility study examining carbon emissions around the airport and worked with the East Midlands Freepoint to identify opportunities to reduce carbon - a baseline report will be shared in December 2023. Further studies, in collaboration with A study with Charnwood Enterprise Zone aims identify carbon emissions in this area and secure funding for emissions mitigation and energy-efficient building improvements.
E17	2	Seek opportunities to increase SME incubation, business development provision and consider how to optimise links between R&D funding and investment in industry, to attract venture capital, start-up entrepreneurs and investors to grow a larger and dynamic start-up community.	Ask	Districts LLEP	L	M	L	2	Delivery	LLEP invested £54m under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in high-profile projects, forging links between research and development funding and industry investment. Projects included collaborations with Universities in the county.
Supply Chain										
E18	1	Work with supply chains to reduce carbon and increase the offering of low carbon goods and services.	Ask	Districts Universities Business	S/M	M	H	15	Discovery	Work to be progressed at a later point, but early discussions being help by District partners.
E19	All	Consider how council investments can support the net zero transition, including development of a Pension Climate Strategy.	Lead	Leicestershire LGPS Committee/Board	S	L	M	18	Delivery	Leicestershire County Council has completed the Pension Climate Strategy, next steps are being considered.
E20	2	Promote circular economy principles to industry to decouple economic growth from the consumption of finite resources.	Ask	LLEP Universities	M/L	M	M	6	Delivery	LLEP Growth Hub have begun to hold and partner in sustainability for business events. In addition the LLEP has been working with partners such as LCC and Oxford University to explore in more detail the circular economy through such projects as 'Bean Meal'.
E21	3, 4	Support the delivery of zero carbon new builds and energy efficiency retrofit by building the supply chain for local skilled labour, low carbon products and retrofit skills, including securing funding for delivery programmes and considering social value requirements in procurement exercises.	Lead	Midlands Net Zero Hub Districts LLEP Developers Business	S/M	L	M	15	Delivery	The Economic Growth Team collaborates with LLEP, Districts, and City on retrofit initiatives. Initiatives begin with upskilling council staff and involve partnerships with colleges and training providers to identify courses and stimulate employer demand.
E22	2	Support industrial innovation in renewable energy technology through research and pilots.	Ask	CREST Universities	L	H	M	2	Design	Freepoint investment at Loughborough University enhances programmes linked to hydrogen and renewables.
E23	4, 5	Consider approaches to maximising natural capital in the county, with economic benefits, including growth in visitor economy, creation of forestry and land management jobs, and sale of carbon credits.	Lead	National Forest, Woodland Trust LRWT Land owners and managers LRP NFU LLEP	M	M	M	8	Discovery	The Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) may identify potential opportunities to maximise natural capital within the county. 'Visit Leicestershire's' sustainable tourism initiatives will boost the green growth of the visitor economy. The National Forest is also developing plans to support sustainable tourism.
E24	1, 2, 4	Support the delivery of low carbon transport by promoting and expanding existing advanced manufacturing facilities and research organisations.	Ask	Industry Business Universities	L	M	M	4	Delivery	Leicestershire County Council collaborates with MIRA Enterprise Zone to develop low-carbon transport options.
E25	2, 3	Build the hydrogen value chain in the county including hydrogen skills, production, distribution and demand, particularly within the logistics sector, including participation in the Hydex project, launch of the Freepoint hydrogen skills hub pilot and building on the success of existing projects such as	Ask	ERA Universities Midlands Net Zero Hub Midlands Connect	S/M	M	M	10	Discovery	East Midlands Hydrogen group, recently formed, will spearhead regional activities.
E26	9	Work with partners to investigate and support the delivery of scalable carbon capture and storage technologies	Ask	Universities Districts Business Energy Companies	M	H	M	4	Discovery	Current activities align with the mitigation hierarchy. Leicestershire County Council is not currently involved in carbon capture and storage development but actively monitors national progress in this field.
E27	1, 2, 4	Use of Enterprise Zones to support low carbon sector industry and business clusters and increase R&D capacity in the county through securing investment and delivery of pilot projects.	Ask	LLEP Universities	L	H	L	1	Design	Leicestershire County Council collaborates with Charnwood Campus Enterprise Zone and Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park to boost research and development capacity. Projects currently in progress.
E28	1, 2	Incentivise the low carbon economy through financial mechanisms such as VAT and other tax relief, enhanced capital allowances etc.	Influence	Government	S	L	M	18	Delivery	LLEP, through the broader Local Enterprise Partnership network, uses its influence to advocate for this matter with the Government.
Skills										
E29	3	Develop a Skills Strategy, addressing the skills shortages and weaknesses in training provision identified in the Midlands Energy Hub Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Market Insight Study, and promoting acceleration and diversity in upskilling and reskilling.	Ask	LLEP Universities FE Colleges	S	M	M	12	Design	LLEP and Leicestershire County Council collaboratively produced a Green Skills Document with a proposed action plan. Projects are in the design stage.
E30	3	Work with partners to raise awareness of green jobs with school age children.	Ask	LLEP Careers Hub Business	M	L	L	6	Delivery	LLEP develops materials for the Careers and Enterprise Company. Leicestershire County Council supports the promotion within the County Council and across the county
E31	3	Work with partners to promote green courses and increase availability of different courses.	Ask	FE colleges	M	L	L	6	Design	Leicestershire County Council actively participates in the development of Department of Education funded Green Skills Bootcamps for the area. This also links with the Green Skills Document (Action E29).
E32	3, 4	Continue to provide funding for skills and product development and long-term programmes of delivery.	Influence	Government	M	L	L	6	Discovery	Leicestershire County Council actively prepares for potential external funding opportunities to support these activities.