

Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan

2023 – 2025



Our vision for South Norfolk

South Norfolk has the unique opportunity to **lead the energy transition** in our nation as we migrate from fossil fuels to clean sources of power. No other district has such a chance **concentration of global expertise** and access to clean energy. Our rich and diverse rural landscape has the space to enable significant solar generation and our proximity to one of the world's largest offshore wind arrays means we can harness the myriad benefits which renewable energy and clean growth will bring.

Maximising the opportunities from leading this change will **drive our economy and create jobs** that will sustain our society for generations. However, creating them will not happen by itself. It needs the leadership of **far-sighted local government** applying its statutory power and financial resources to drive transition. Our environment deserves a change in approach. Our economy requires it.

Our Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan is a living document and encompasses work which we started some time ago. This document outlines in simple terms our **commitments** to you, our **key achievements** to date, how we are going **measure success**, and the **six key principles** which we are going to take on our journey towards environmental excellence

In essence, this plan explains how we will lead the environmental agenda, protect our stunning green spaces and address the impacts of climate change whilst helping residents and businesses to thrive. This is **more than just a commitment to Net Zero**, important though it is, this is about using our location, unique natural spaces, local engineering and innovative skills to redefine the post-carbon economy. We can't do it alone, but, as South Norfolk, **we can lead this change together.**





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Energy and Infrastructure

Map of Norfolk

Electricity generation

Renewable

- Biomass (greater than 1MW)
- Landfill gas (greater than 1MW)
- Onshore wind (greater than 1MW)
- Sewage gas (greater than 1MW)
- Solar PV (greater than 1MW)

Non-renewable

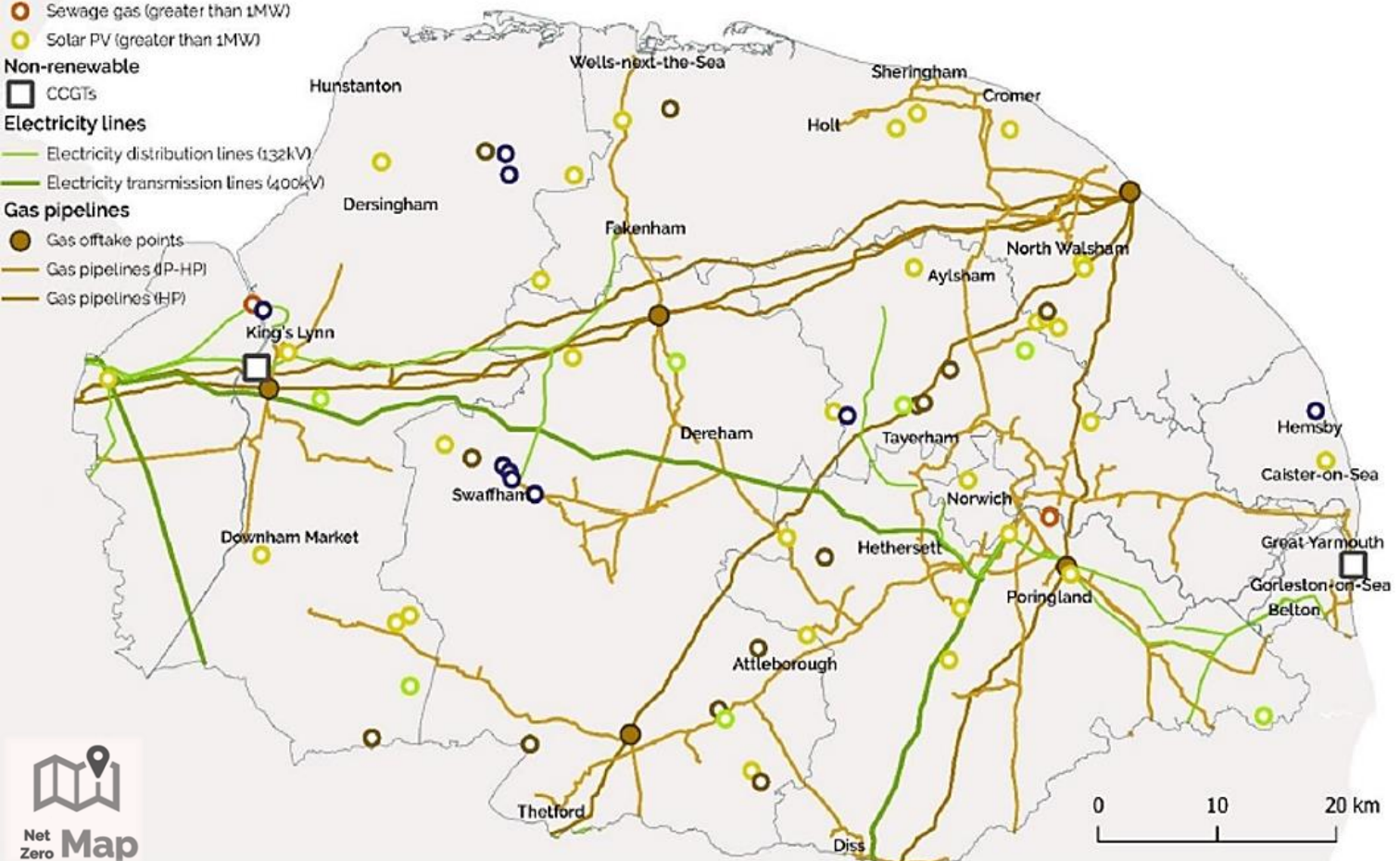
- CCGTs

Electricity lines

- Electricity distribution lines (132kV)
- Electricity transmission lines (400kV)

Gas pipelines

- Gas offtake points
- Gas pipelines (P-HP)
- Gas pipelines (HP)



Setting the Scene

Norfolk is currently host to 400 kilovolts of electricity transmission lines.

Approximately 30% of Great British gas flows on from the Norfolk Coastline, at Bacton, however much of Norfolk experiences limited gas connectivity

Norfolk has a highly constrained grid network especially when compared to the rest of the UK Power Network distribution area.

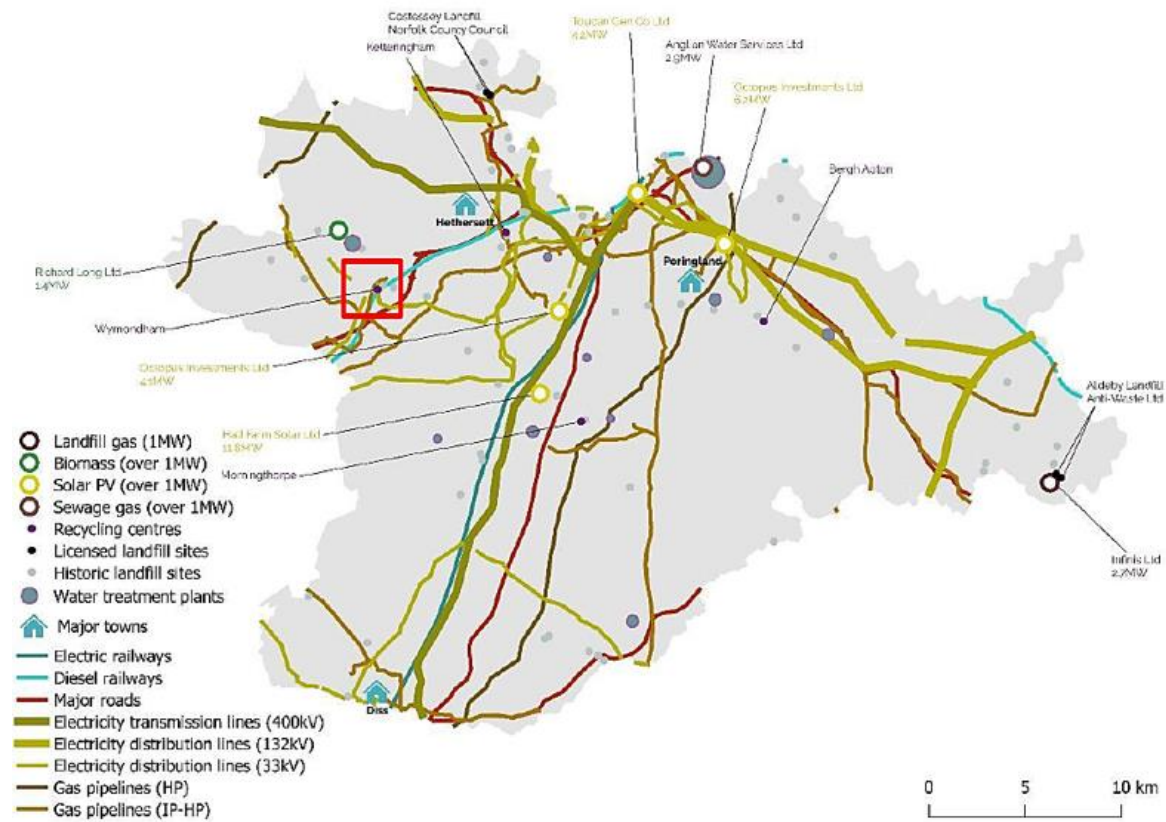
In fact, much of Norfolk sits within a FDG Zone (flexible distribution Generation) which means it experiences high levels of annual solar curtailment

Norfolk is host to significant large-scale generation assets and multiple offshore wind farms which connect into the transmission system.

To enable the connection to new offshore wind, and other onshore generation assets, significant network reinforcement is required

Energy and Infrastructure

Map of South Norfolk



Setting the Scene

We are a low-lying, rural district made up of predominantly grade 3 agricultural land

South Norfolk is the largest transport energy consumer out of all the Local Authorities in Norfolk, this is due to the rurality or the district, which makes private cars the main mode of transport.

There are several major roads links within the district, including the A11 and A47 which link Norfolk to Cambridge, London and the Midlands.

Currently South Norfolk has high levels of solar curtailment as it sits within a 'Flexible Distribution Generation' zone (FDG). This means that South Norfolk can experience over 20% curtailment.

In its 'Electricity Ten Year Statement' the National Grid ESO identified large amounts of generation connecting into the East of England, and South Norfolk in particular, which it recognised as a significant driver for the regions clean energy evolution.

The East Anglia GREEN (Green Energy Enablement) project identifies South Norfolk as a key location for upgrades to the Norwich Main substation allow for two new wind farm connections

Setting the scene:

South Norfolk's Natural Capital

South Norfolk's has a rich and varied landscape which is dominated by arable farmland

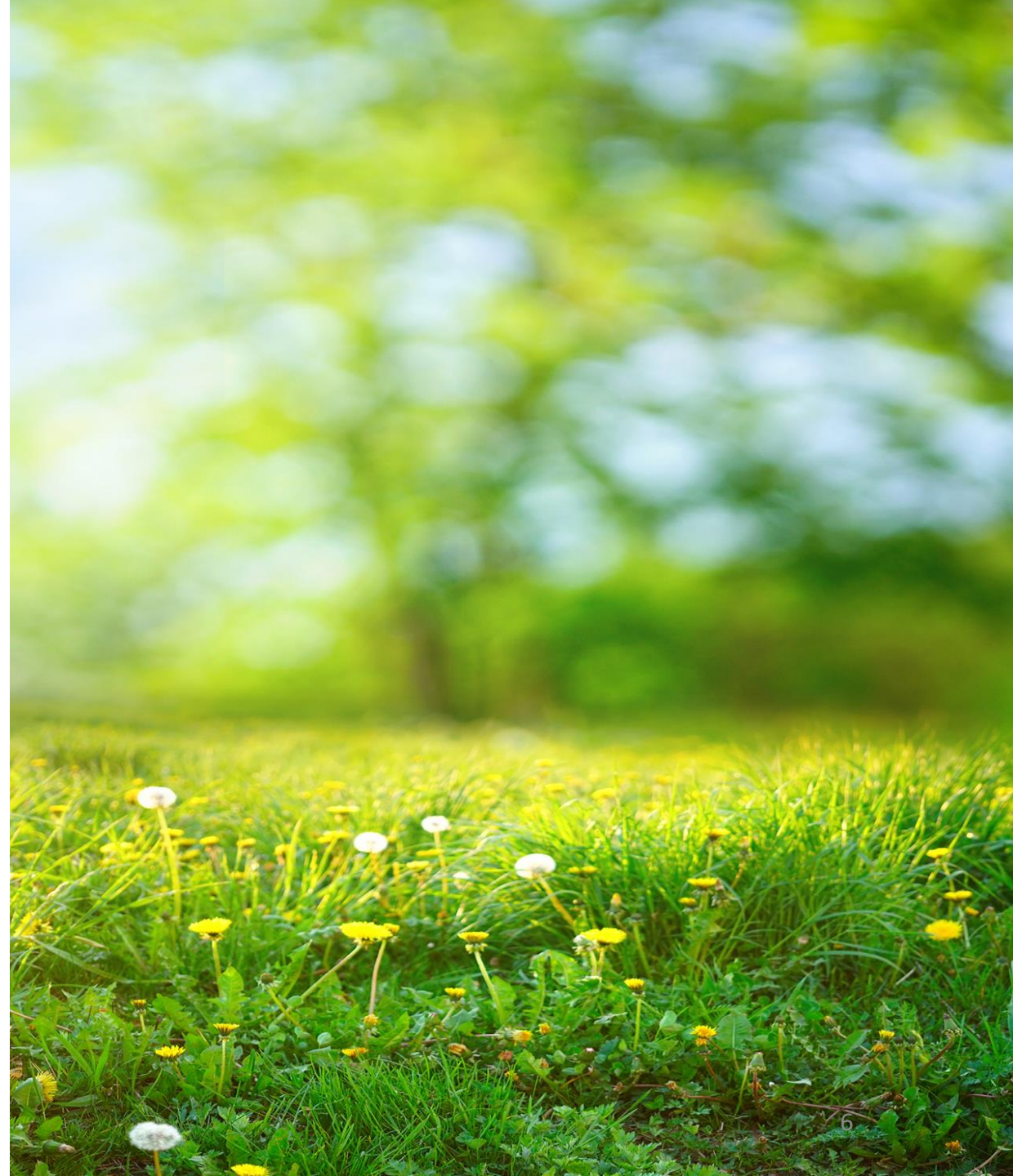
Farmland is interspersed with ancient woodlands, isolated grasslands, hedgerows, ponds, greens, commons and river valleys.

The South Norfolk "Claylands" have some of the most important ancient woodlands in the county, such as Ashwellthorpe Wood - these sites are key wildlife habitats and popular recreational areas for local residents.

Hedgerows, ponds, meadows and veteran trees are characteristic of the landscape and provide habitats for wildflower meadows and butterflies. Areas which provide these key habitats are Mulbarton, Swardeston and Flordon common for example.

There are a number of rivers and tributaries in the district such as the Tas and the Tiffey, each of these rivers has a distinctive course and unique interactions with other habitats and human land use.

South Norfolk, like much of East Anglia, is at risk from climate change specifically from increased flooding incidents, rising temperatures and droughts.





Our Commitments:

We will provide regional and national leadership on the energy transition as we move from fossil fuels to clean sources of power. **This will deliver a clean, vibrant, and sustainable economy** and contribute towards **the Government's net zero 2050 target**.

We will put sustainability at the heart of delivery and, as a Council, will achieve a **net zero carbon emission position by 2030**

We **will engage, inspire, and equip** our residents, businesses, and community groups to take steps to improve their natural environments and reduce their carbon emissions.

Our key achievements to date:

We have started to install solar panels and additional energy saving measures on all our leisure centre buildings, this will **generate clean energy and save up to 100 tCO₂e**

As of 2023, our new office at the Horizon Centre will have a cutting-edge renewable heating system and solar car-port array, over **2,500 solar panels** and electric vehicle charging points, making it net-zero.

We have Installed **electric vehicle car charging points** in our market town car parks





How we will measure success:

We track the progress of each actions within this plan and will provide **annual updates to the council's Economy and Environment Policy Panel**.

We will **publish our carbon emissions** on an annual basis

We recognise the need to **respond to local, national, and international policy developments** and we will update the delivery plan annually to reflect these changes.

Our next steps:

Our environment deserves a change in approach and our economy requires it, so we will develop a '**Clean Energy Action Plan**'. This will outline how we will drive forward a **post-carbon economy, creating jobs and a** sustainable society for generations

We will publish a **Decarbonisation Action Plan** which sets out how we will achieve net zero emissions by 2030

Consult our residents, communities, and businesses to understand how we can support community action as we transition towards a post-carbon economy.



A note on the Delivery Plan

So far, we have outlined our **vision** and **commitments** to you, our **key achievements** to date, how we are going **measure success**, and the **next steps** we are going to take on our journey towards environmental excellence.

This section of the document moves on to our **Delivery Plan**. The plan outlines **six key principles** which underpin South Norfolk's approach to addressing net-zero, climate change and the environment.

The targets within the delivery plan are intentionally **near-term** as this enables us to outline **clear, measurable and defined pathways** towards a net zero future.

The delivery plan outlines clear outcomes, in simple terms with measurable timescales so that we can report on the progress that we make annually.



The Six Key Principles

Principle One: The Energy Transition	This principal outlines how we will work to support district wide decarbonisation and the transition to low carbon technologies as well as helping to meet the Government’s 2050 net zero emissions target
Principle Two: Doing more ourselves	Leading by example we are committed to reducing our emissions and achieving a net zero target of 2030.
Principle Three: Enhancing our natural environment	We will enhance existing habitats by managing council owned greenspaces in a way which encourages biodiversity to flourish. Under this principle we will work to encourage and equip local communities to improve biodiversity at a local level.
Principle Four: Helping people do more at home	We will encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible. This principle details how we will support residents to reduce energy demand alongside the assistance offered to support those households in fuel poverty.
Principle Five: Sustainable communities	This principle outlines how we will enable local plans to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. It also considers the ways in which we continue to work to develop inclusive, high quality, and safe communities
Principle Six: Growing our local businesses	<p>This outlines the ways we will encourage business networks in key clusters, encouraging knowledge exchange, innovation, supply chain development and access to new markets.</p> <p>This principle also outlines some of the direct support we offers to local businesses who want to develop skills and specialist training which could be used to facilitate growth within the clean economy.</p>

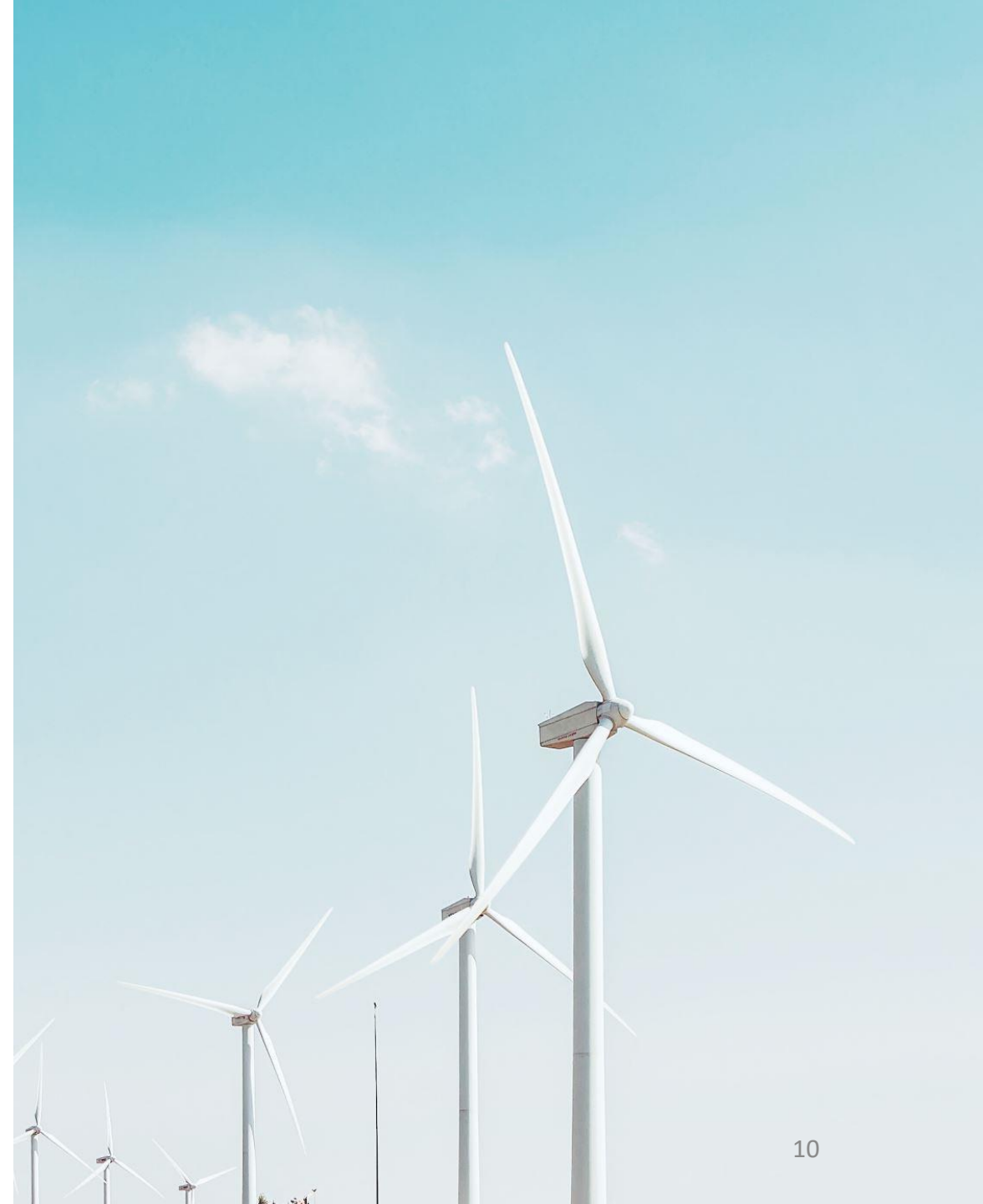
Principle One: The Energy Transition

Summary

We will lead the energy transition as we migrate from fossil fuels to clean sources of power. This will support district wide decarbonisation and a transition to low carbon technologies as well as helping to meet the Government's 2050 net zero emissions target.

We will identify and actively work alongside the sectors which release the highest carbon emissions.

We will encourage a vibrant, clean economy which champions innovative technologies and creates a wide range of highly skilled, well-paid jobs.



Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	Timescales	Lead
ET1	<p>Support the clean energy transition through the development of a clean hydrogen economy.</p> <p>To enable this we seek to develop a pipeline of potential projects by identifying sites, offtakes and suppliers, but also through establishing a deeper understanding of the viability of the locations on the ground i.e., mapping grid capacity, energy supply, assets suitable for CH production and distribution.</p>	Form a clean hydrogen task force and develop a 'hydrogen delivery plan' for South Norfolk.	October 2023	Economic Growth
ET2	To assist our residents and communities to make the switch to electric vehicles by increasing the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) within the district.	<p>Install additional EVCP across all South Norfolk owned carparks</p> <p>Increase public provision of EVCPs within South Norfolk by 10%</p>	<p>2023</p> <p>2024</p>	Economic Growth

ET3	To provide leadership on the energy transition as we migrate from fossil fuels to clean sources of power. South Norfolk has a high concentration of global expertise, access to clean energy and ambition in one place to effect this change.	Develop a ' Clean Energy Action Plan ' for south Norfolk which considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative fuels • Maximising offshore wind opportunities • A vibrant clean growth economy with skilled employment and high graduate retention • Grid capacity, curtailment and constraints • Net-zero and the Government's 2050 target 	2023	Economic Growth
ET4	Utilise South Norfolk's unique position to leverage the resources required to deliver nationally significant infrastructure projects	Work with central government to realise the transition towards a post carbon economy	2023	Economic Growth
ET5	Identify and work alongside the largest emitters in South Norfolk to identify ways in which they can reduce their carbon emissions and transition towards clean energy alternatives.	Engage with the top five largest emitters within South Norfolk and establish a joint approach to working towards net-zero 2050	January 2024	Economic Growth



Principle Two: Doing More Ourselves

Summary

We will lead by example. South Norfolk Council is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 across our scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.

We are installing solar panels and other energy efficiency measures to our owned and operated leisure centres

We are mobilising a whole council approach to reducing emissions and achieving environmental excellence.

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	Timescales	Lead
Dm1	Become an exemplar organisation delivering net-zero emissions by 2030 across the council's estates and operations.	Publish a decarbonisation plan and net-zero 2030 route map	2023	Economic Growth
Dm2	Reduce usage of fossil fuels in council owned and operated buildings	Carry out a suite of energy efficiency works to council operated leisure centres and head quarter buildings. This includes installing solar PV, Battery Storage, air source and ground-source heat pumps	June 2024	Economic Growth and Leisure Services
Dm3	Provide clear data and communicate clearly regarding the actions the council is taking to reduce its carbon emissions.	Establish a process for publishing carbon footprints and reporting on emission reduction trajectories.	Published online	Economic Growth

Dm4	To imbed a 'whole council' approach to reducing carbon emissions by ensuring that decisions take into consideration the issues presented by climate change.	For Cabinet Members and all staff within the council's Corporate Leadership Team to attend carbon literacy training sessions. Run a series of carbon literacy courses open to all staff and councillors - align these sessions to other staff CPD opportunities such as 'Learn-Fest'	Cabinet & CLT offered training 2023	Economic Growth
Dm5	Providing low carbon commuting and travel options for council staff including lift sharing opportunities, Electric Vehicle car hire and cycle to work schemes.	A decreasing trajectory in staff travel emissions EVCPs installed at all council offices	2024 2023	Economic Growth and HR
Dm6	Support the ongoing work of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.	Attend Norfolk Climate Change Partnership meetings and provide leadership on the Partnership's 'activity plan'.	Ongoing	Economic Growth
Dm7	Ensure that the procurement of good and services considers environmental impacts and assists in reducing the council's carbon emissions.	Develop a new Corporate Procurement Strategy	2023	Finance team

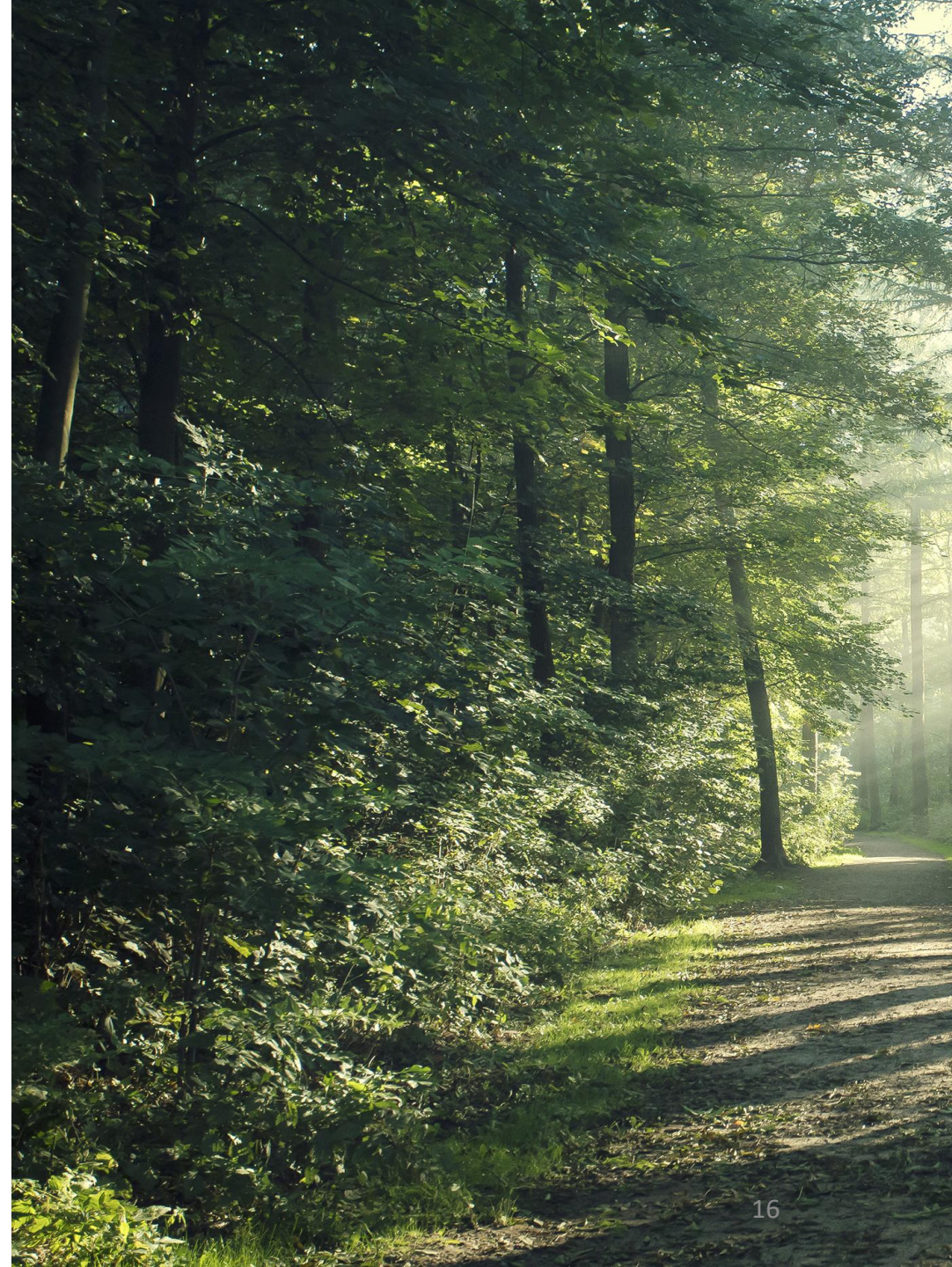
Principle Three: Enhancing our Natural Environment

Summary

We will enhance our existing habitats by managing council owned greenspaces in a way which encourages biodiversity to flourish

We will encourage and equip our local communities to improve biodiversity at a local level

We will increase tree and hedgerow planting by offering out grants, adopting a 'right tree for the right location' approach



Ref	Objective	Outcome	Timescale	Lead
EnE1	Plant trees to increase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Community wellbeing and engagement Carbon sequestration 	Provide grants of up –to £1,000 to support community groups, landowners, partner organisations and town and parish councils to plant 10,000 new trees within the district.	2025	Economic Growth
EnE2	Improve the biodiversity of council owned woodland and greenspace sites	Adopt a ‘Biodiversity Enhancement Plan’ for council owned woodlands and green spaces	2024	Community assets
EnE3	Develop a Net-Zero Innovation Project (NZIP) Work alongside the Local Government Association and University College London for a joint project between South Norfolk Council and UEA’s Tyndall Centre for Climate Change.	Work collaboratively with staff and Students at UEA to develop a toolkit which will allow us to calculate carbon sequestration on council owned greenspaces - this will help us understand what actions can be carried out across to improve carbon capture and will also improve biodiversity across our sites.	November 2023	Economic Growth
EnE4	Encourage residents within the district to think about their natural environments and to promote biodiversity action at a local level	‘Biodiversity for South-Norfolk’ - a series of drop-in advice events held at Queen’s Hill Country Park where residents can speak to the ranger team and receive advice on how best to nurture biodiversity, as well as receiving a free tree to plant.	3 events between 2022 - 2024	Community assets



Principle Four: Helping people do more at Home

Summary

Provide a first class waste collection service which encouraged residents to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible

Help residents to reduce energy demand by delivering and promoting insulation schemes. We will assist households in fuel poverty who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

Provide clear information and guidance on issues such as air quality, recycling, land quality and water

Ref	Project objectives	Outcome	Timescales	Lead
HpH1	Encourage residents to switch to clean energy – decrease in living costs support with	Increase of residents signed up to the ‘Solar Together’ promotion, based on 2021 scheme.	2022-2023	Housing Standards
HpH2	Reduce waste and single use plastics.	Promoting the ‘Refill scheme’ across the district to residents and businesses – we will also become a single use plastic free council and publish a ‘ how to guide ’ in order to support others wishing to do the same	2023	Economic Growth and Recycling
HpH3	<p>Reduce the amount of waste which is sent to landfill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch initiatives to which encourage recycling and therefore • Support and encourage the uptake of schemes and services which increase food and garden waste composting. 	Achieve a 50% recycling rate	2025	Recycling

HpH4	To reduce the impact of oil spillages by proactively reaching out to oil users in vulnerable locations and providing advice on fuel security and spill prevention.	Direct advice issued to all residents and businesses who are considered to be in 'oil vulnerable' locations. Information and guidance on the council website which provides guidance on fuel security and spill prevention.	2024	Environmental protection
HpH5	To raise awareness of air quality issues and promote understanding of new legislation, such as a wood burning.	Bi-annual social media campaigns which provide tips and information on how residents can reduce air pollution Use National 'Clean Air Days' to raise awareness in schools.	2023	Environmental protection
HpH6	Conserve water resources by promoting knowledge of rainwater re-use and conservation.	Bi-annual social media campaigns which provide tips and information on how residents can conserve water.	2023	Environmental protection

HpH7	Seek funding to continue the proactive enforcement of 'Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards'.	Investigate and apply for funding to continue the proactive enforcement action on the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the private rented sector.	2023	Warm Homes
HpH8	Apply for external funding to run projects to improve energy efficiency in homes.	There are 2 Government funded projects currently running. We aim to fully utilise all funding from these projects. We will apply for new funding streams as they open	2023	Warm Homes
HpH9	Advise and support households in fuel poverty, helping them to maximise their incomes and achieve the most suitable energy tariffs and heating types.	Work alongside the Early Help Hub to develop a support package for the most vulnerable residents in the District.	2023	Warm Homes

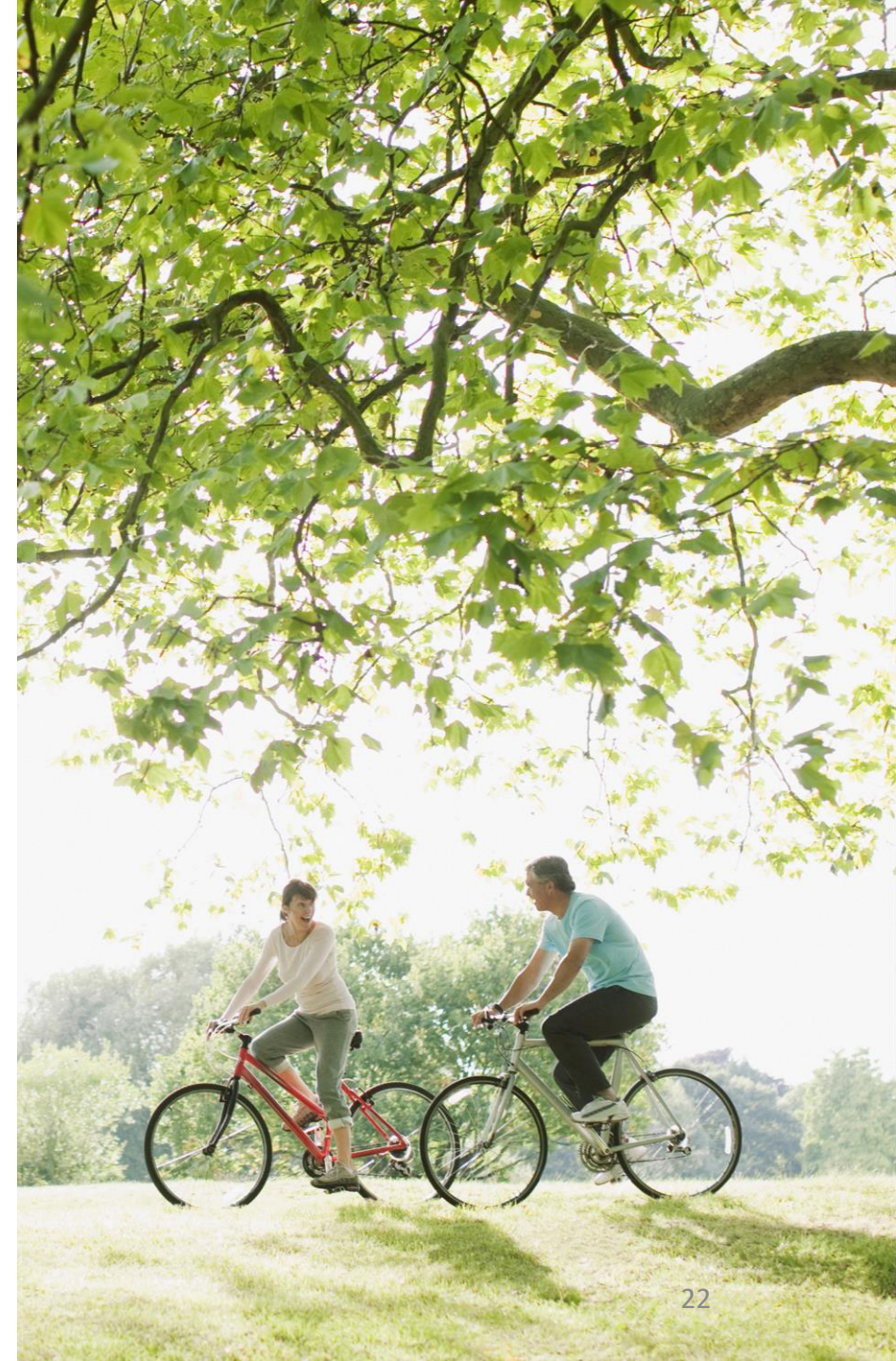
Principle Five: Sustainable Communities

Summary

Plan for housing in a way which is sustainable and celebrates the unique nature of our natural environment

Ensure our local plans take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change

Continue work to develop inclusive, high quality, and safe communities



Ref	Project	Outcome	Timescale	Lead
Sc1	<p>Council officers to support the development of neighbourhood and community led plans which encourage a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change by considering issues such as, flooding, water supply and biodiversity. This might be via;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of sustainable drainage systems in new developments • Rainwater conservation and re use • Enhancement of greenspace to promote greater biodiversity • Rewilding and tree planting 	5 new neighbourhood and community led plans developed by parish and town councils which consider the impacts of climate change and mitigation.	2024	Community Planning
Sc2	Deliver Nutrient Neutrality and enable sustainable growth in our area by tackling the high levels of nutrient run off in the River Wensum and Broads Special Areas of Conservation	Establish a joint venture company with other Norfolk partners to secure much needed mitigation to reduce the nutrient levels in our important waterways	2023	Planning
Sc3	Ensure suitable greenspace and Green Infrastructure (GI) is provided to support new growth	Delivery of 5 new GI projects across the District	2025	Planning



Principle Six: Growing our Local Businesses

Summary

Celebrate, attract and retain talent in the area

Encourage targeted skills development so that residents are equipped for the jobs

Build business networks in key clusters, encouraging knowledge exchange, innovation, supply chain development and access to new markets

Ref	Project	Outcome	Timescale	Lead
Pb1	Support businesses to reduce their carbon emissions to align with the Government's net zero carbon emission 2050 target.	Facilitate 'Net-Zero Go' training sessions and events.	The first events held by 2024	Economic Growth
Pb2	Promote the businesses within South Norfolk who are taking steps to reduce their carbon emissions and encourage others to follow their lead.	The annual Business Awards category for 'Environmental Innovation' showcases those businesses in South Norfolk who are innovatively addressing environmental improvement.	Annual	Economic Growth
Pb3	Develop skills and specialist training which could be used to facilitate growth within the clean economy	<p>South Norfolk offers a 'Build-Up Grant' which supports entrepreneurs who are already training and require grants of up to £1,000</p> <p>A 'Development Grant' of up to £5,000 is also offered for established businesses.</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2024</p>	Economic Growth