

BROXBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2026-28
ACTION PLAN

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| Successful delivery is unachievable or has not yet started | Delivery is in doubt or not on schedule | Some issues but delivery is probable | Delivery is on track | Delivery is complete |
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A SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL

This priority concerns reduction of the Council's own carbon footprint, and setting an example for others in the Borough. The objectives are:

1. Reduce the carbon footprint of Council buildings
2. Reduce the use of petrol and diesel by the Council and minimise emissions
3. Consider sustainability in use of materials and procurement decisions

| Objective 1: Reduce the carbon footprint of Council buildings | | | |
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| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 1.1 Undertake audit of carbon emissions per year to measure against baseline figure and track progress against reaching carbon net zero. Total emissions in 2023/24 was 1,556.87 tonnes of CO2 equivalent. | Sustainability Officer | Audit conducted. Results published by end of Q2 each year. | Existing. |
| 1.2 Improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions of Council assets, prioritising the most carbon intensive sites. | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer | Funding secured for decarbonisation audits. | External Funding. S106. |

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| | Facilities Manager Hostels Manager | Audits commissioned and delivered. Actions agreed and funding secured to implement actions. Develop a list of all properties that can have solar PV installed. | Capital programme. |
| 1.3 Ensure that all Council owned buildings comply with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards by the deadline. Consequence of failure is cannot be let legally. | Property Services Manager | April 2027. | Technical Property administrator. Up to date data files. Budget to allow works to progress. |
| 1.4 Increase proportion of electricity supply that are from sustainable sources. | Procurement Officer | At renewal of current energy supplier contract, increase proportion of electricity that has to be from sustainable sources. Currently 30.7% of electricity is from sustainable sources. | Could increase the proportion from sustainable sources but it could cost more than the current deal. |
| 1.5 Undertake feasibility study for increased use of biomass boiler at Laura Trott Leisure Centre. | Facilities Manager | Completion of feasibility study. | Existing. |
| 1.6 Reduce waste and increase recycling from Council offices and leisure centres. | Facilities Manager Leisure Centre Manager | Higher percentage of waste recycled. Baseline data set in March 2021. | £15k capital for standardising bins / recycling points across all Council facilities. |

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| 1.7 Reduce energy usage and waste at Council offices. | Sustainability Officer Customer and Communications Service Director | Ongoing articles in Staff News on how officers can take practical steps to reduce energy consumption and waste. | Existing. |
| 1.8 Deliver programme of climate change training for staff. | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer Human Resources | Climate change e-learning package to be rolled out. | Existing |
| 1.9 Facilitate multi-disciplinary carbon net zero officer group. | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer | Meetings take place quarterly. | Existing. |
| <i>Objective 2: Reduce the use of petrol and diesel by the Council and minimise emissions</i> | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 2.1 Reduce car journeys by staff. | Sustainability Officer | Undertake annual Staff Travel Survey in Q1 each annum. Reduction in car mileage claims by staff. Produce articles and campaigns to encourage staff to switch from car to bicycle for growing | |

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| | | <p>proportion of in-Borough journeys by officers.</p> <p>Increase in the number of people traveling by greener modes of transport including car sharing and/or better perception of these modes of transport measured by staff travel survey.</p> | |
| 2.2 Continue Electric Vehicle salary sacrifice scheme to support staff in obtaining an electric vehicle at discounted rate. | Human Resources | Increased number of staff participating in scheme. | Officer time to administer scheme. |
| 2.3 Explore feasibility of adding additional electric vehicle charging points to staff car park and transferring more of the fleet to electric vehicles. | Customer and Communications Service Director | Feasibility conducted for transferring more of fleet to electric vehicles. | Existing. |
| 2.4 Maximise fuel efficiency and minimise emissions from Council vehicles running on fossil fuels. | Operations Service Director | Ensure waste collection routes are efficient in operation, avoiding unnecessary travel time. | Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility grant funding. |
| Objective 3: Consider sustainability in use of materials and procurement decisions | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 3.1 Reduce office paper usage by greater use of technology and | Customer and Communications Service Director | Reduction in amount of paper purchased. The spend on paper | Existing. |

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| development to sustained home working. | All heads of service | in 2024/25 was £10,265 (a reduction of 2.5% on 2023/24). | |
| 3.2 Purchase locally produced goods where possible and in compliance with contract standing orders to invite at least one local supplier when sourcing quotations for goods and services. | Resources Service Director Procurement Officer Economic and Community Development Manager | a) Local providers of goods and services purchased by the Council identified and circulated to purchasing managers. b) Evidence of purchases made from new local suppliers. c) Explore 'inclusive growth' concept of social value in procurement. | Existing. |
| 3.3 Take account of sustainability in procurement of goods, including whole life and disposal costs, and favour renewable or recycled materials. Include a scoring criteria for locality/distance/environmental sustainability within the evaluation model for procurement of goods and services. | Resources Service Director Procurement Officer Waste & Street Scene Manager | a) Procurement guidance and training modified for purchasing managers to ensure sustainability is taken into account, including whole life and disposal costs for goods, and sustainability practices of tenderers to provide services. b) Evidence of sustainability taken into account in purchasing. c) Seek locally sourced market offerings e.g. Farmers Markets and other local producers. d) Subject to affordability, introduce requirements to purchase commodities from Fair Trade sources to all | Existing. |

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| | | contracts to provide food and beverages at Council facilities. | |
| 3.4 Identify priority areas of action to reduce the impact of Procurement on Scope 3 emissions. | Sustainability Officer Procurement Officer | Develop and adopt an action plan covering at least three high-impact procurement categories by Summer 2027. Pilot at least one new procurement procedure incorporating these measures by December 2027. | Existing. |

A GREENER BROXBOURNE

This priority deals with protecting and enhancing the Borough's environment, tackling air pollution and providing more greenery to help offset carbon emissions and add to the enjoyment of residents. The objectives are:

4. Take action to improve air quality
5. Protect and enhance biodiversity
6. Carry out a greenery planting programme
7. Climate change adaptation

| Objective 4: Take action to improve air quality | | | |
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| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 4.1 Implement an Air Quality Action Plan for the Borough's Air Quality Management Areas. | Head of Environmental Health and Licencing | Milestones in the Air Quality Action Plan are met. | Existing. |
| 4.2 Implement road junction improvements on the A10 as described in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan in the new Local Plan. | Deputy Chief Executive Head of Community Infrastructure and Regeneration Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) | Junction improvements completed within 3-5 years at: a) A10 with A121 and B198, Waltham Cross b) A10 and College Rd, Cheshunt c) A10 and Church Lane, Cheshunt | Subject to award of Department for Transport funding. |
| 4.3 Continue to monitor air pollution regularly and take appropriate action on the results | Head of Environmental Health and Licencing | a) Monthly air pollution monitoring. b) Annual return to DEFRA. | Existing. |

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| in accordance with guidance from DEFRA. | | | |
| 4.4 Ensure that up-to-date warnings about poor air quality are available to residents. | Head of Environmental Health and Licencing, Customer and Communications Service Director | Link to air quality alerts remains available via the Council's website. | Existing. |
| 4.5 Reduce idling outside schools. | Head of Environmental Health and Licencing | Deliver anti-idling programmes at schools within the Borough, including with HCC and around Clean Air Day. | Existing. |
| 4.6 Participate in Clean Air Day, to promote awareness of air pollution and encourage residents to join the Council in taking action to reduce it. | Customer and Communications Service Director, Head of Environmental Health and Licencing | Greater engagement with Social Media. | Existing. |
| Objective 5: Protect and enhance biodiversity | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 5.1 Aim to achieve a net increase of at least 10% in biodiversity in all relevant developments. | Planning and Place Service Director | Percentage increase in each relevant development. | Statutory developer requirement |
| 5.2 Ensure Council fulfils all requirements of the Biodiversity | Economic and Community Development Manager | In line with the strengthened biodiversity duties introduced by | Existing. |

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| Duty as of the Environment Act 2021. | Sustainability Officer Planning and Place Service Director | the Environment Act 2021, the Council will review the actions it can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity and periodically publish a report detailing progress. | |
| 5.3 Ensure planning permission for new buildings seek to secure ecological enhancements. | Planning and Place Service Director | Review of planning applications to include ecological enhancement through use of Sustainability Checklist. | Existing. |
| 5.4 Seek opportunities to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitats. | Planning and Place Service Director Green Spaces Manager | Work with Friends groups to create shelters for wildlife in parks. | Existing. |
| 5.5 Seek opportunities to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitats. | Planning and Place Service Director Green Spaces Manager | Prioritise planting of native plants. | Existing. |
| 5.6 Seek opportunities to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitats. | Planning and Place Service Director Green Spaces Manager | Identify location for creation of wild flower meadows. | Existing. |
| 5.7 Seek opportunities to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitats. | Planning and Place Service Director Green Spaces Manager Facilities Manager | Work with RSPB to install swift boxes and other habitat on Council facilities. | Existing. |

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| | RSPB | | |
| 5.8 Continue environmental stewardship programme in Cheshunt Park. | Green Spaces Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continued grazing by a traditional breed of Longhorn cattle. b) Continued grassland management and hedge restoration. | Existing. |
| 5.9 Continue land management to support bees and other pollinators. | Green Spaces Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increased habitats for bees and other pollinators. b) Increase plantings to attract pollinators. c) Minimise use of pesticides, avoiding neonicotinoids completely. d) Beehives introduced to at least one park or open space. e) Explore potential for cemeteries to act as havens for wildlife. | Beehives may require funding. |
| 5.10 Provide information to residents about local flora and fauna to encourage them to support protection of local biodiversity including in their own gardens. | <p>Customer and Communications Service Director</p> <p>Economic and Community Development Manager</p> <p>Sustainability Officer</p> <p>Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Lee Valley Regional Park Authority</p> | Information available on Council website along with social media posts and articles in Our Broxbourne. | Existing. |

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| 5.11 Review potential to expand introduction of retrofitted Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) on Council land to reduce surface water flooding, improve water quality and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the environment. | Head of Infrastructure and Regeneration | Establish mechanisms for review in conjunction with Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership water sub-group and neighbouring authorities. Delivery of SUDS where appropriate on Council land subject to affordability. | Existing. Joint procurement with other Hertfordshire authorities. |
| 5.12 Review the finalised version of the Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy to identify if there are opportunities to contribute to the priorities identified. | Sustainability Officer Hertfordshire County Council | Establish potential actions by the end of 2026. | Existing. External funding. |
| 5.13 Work with colleagues from social housing providers to find opportunities to incorporate nature-positive actions into their properties, | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer External Partners | Installation of swift boxes, development of nature patches etc | Housing Association budgets. External funding. |
| Objective 6: Carry out a greenery planting programme | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |

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| 6.1 Engage with local public sector and charitable landowners and with schools to encourage planting of trees and greenery on their land, and provide advice if required. | Green Spaces Manager Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer. | Evidence of more trees and greenery planted by others in the Borough. | Existing. |
| 6.2 Deliver the new open spaces set out within the Local Plan. | Planning and Place Service Director Head of Broxbourne Development Programme and later, Green Spaces Manager | Masterplan for Newgatestreet Road communal green. Application for major parkland areas at Rosedale Park. | Existing. |
| Objective 7: Climate Change Adaptation | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 7.1 Work with developers to produce low-carbon schemes that are suitable for changing climate, | Planning and Place Service Director | Informal discussions taking place with individual developers and new policies to be developed as part of the Local Plan process. | Existing, |
| 7.2 Develop Adaptation Action Plan, | Sustainability Officer | Agree the final version of the Adaptation Action Plan and start delivering on that agenda. | Existing, |
| 7.3 Identify locations in Borough that would benefit from cooling (e.g. on walking or cycling routes or in parks) and conduct a feasibility assessment to | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer | Locations identified. | External funding, |

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| ascertain whether trees could be planted to provide the required shading. | Hertfordshire County Council Age Friendly Hertfordshire | Feasibility assessment conducted. | |
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SUPPORTING ACTION BY BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS

This priority is about encouraging and supporting others in the Borough – businesses, organisations and residents – to become sustainable. As community leader, the Council is well placed to identify opportunities, to promote the importance of making changes and to advice on practicalities. The objectives are:

8. Increase the proportion of local journeys made by sustainable or low-carbon modes of travel
9. Reduce waste and increase recycling
10. Encourage residents further in improving their local environment and adopting a sustainable lifestyle
11. Encourage local businesses to become more sustainable and to develop their resilience to climate risks
12. Work with partners to protect water sustainability

| <i>Objective 8: Increase the proportion of local journeys made by sustainable or low-carbon modes of travel</i> | | | |
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| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 8.1 Improve access to the Lee Valley Regional Park for walkers and cyclists in the Cheshunt Station area, | Head of the Broxbourne Development Programme Head of Community Infrastructure and Regeneration | Projects identified and implemented | Section 106 funding, |
| 8.2 Develop designs for the continuation of the New River | Head of Community Infrastructure and Regeneration | Designs developed. Funding identified. | Existing, |

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| shared path from Church Lane, Wormley to Rye House Station. | | | |
| 8.3 Increase availability of electric vehicle charging points, working with developers to incorporate them in new developments, and with Herts County Council to choose best sites for on-street charging points to be funded by the Government. | Customer and Communications Service Director Planning and Place Director Parking Services Manager | a) LEVI information. b) Incorporation of electric vehicle home charging points into new developments. c) Work with businesses to increase the number of EV charging points in town centres. | LEVI funding. |
| 8.4 Promote walking and cycling to school and to work, especially in the town centres. | Hertfordshire County Council Customer and Communications Service Director | Support schools to determine multi-agency parking enforcement plan to prevent dangerous parking near schools at start and end of school day if situation becomes very problematic. | Existing. |
| 8.5 Promote walking and cycling to school and to work, especially in the town centres. | Sports Development Officer | Deliver programme of school cycling projects to increase the number of children in years 1 and 2 that can cycle in Waltham Cross. Measured by the number of in/competent riders at base level and then again at the end of programme to check for improvement. | Existing budgets. External funding. |

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| 8.6 Promote walking and cycling to school and to work, especially in the town centres. | Sports Development Officer | Deliver holiday cycle camps to increase the number of children aged 8-16 that can cycle in Broxbourne. Measured by the number of in/competent riders at base level and then again at the end of programme to check for improvement. | External funding. |
| 8.7 Promote walking and cycling to school and to work, especially in the town centres. | Sports Development Officer | Work with British Cycling to develop and deliver cycling proficiency programme for adults. | External funding. |
| 8.8 Explore feasibility of introducing Freecycle scheme in Broxbourne providing renewed bikes to those in need. | Sports Development Officer | Work with Active in the Community to develop funding bids to enable the programme to benefit Broxbourne residents. | External funding. |
| 8.9 Promote bus routes to major developments and stations. | Planning and Place Service Director | Bus service planned to link Brookfield, Cheshunt Lakeside and Waltham Cross. New bus service proposed between Newgate Street, Rosedale Park, Park Plaza and Waltham Cross. | Bus services to be provided through section 106 agreements for Brookfield, Rosedale Park, High Leigh and Cheshunt Lakeside. |
| <i>Objective 9: Reduce waste and increase recycling</i> | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |

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| 9.1 Continue public information campaigns to promote waste minimisation and recycling. | Customer and Communications Service Director Waste & Street Scene Manager | Minimise waste and improve the Borough's recycling rate. | Existing. |
| 9.2 Provide information on recycling and green waste collection along with the Council Tax bill to households moving into the Borough. | Waste & Street Scene Manager, Financial Services Manager | | Approximately £1k for double sided colour 15 insert. |
| 9.3 Promote Circular Economy principles across the Borough and engage with communities to provide more opportunities to implement a circular economy. | Sustainability Officer | Deliver yearly small appliances and electronics repair workshops. | Existing. |
| 9.4 Investigate the feasibility of setting up a Library of Things | Sustainability Officer | Feasibility study completed and funding identified and secured. | External funding for Library of Things. |
| 9.5 Encourage composting by residents. | Customer and Communications Service Director | Information available on Council website, social media channels and in <i>Our Broxbourne</i> magazine. | Existing. |
| <i>Objective 10: Engage residents further in improving their local environment and adopting a sustainable lifestyle.</i> | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |

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| 10.1 Provide community leadership on promoting sustainable lifestyles. | Sustainability Officer Customer and Communications Service Director | Facilitate a Borough-wide programme of events and workshops as part of Great Big Green Week or similar. Organise annual Big Green Festival event. | Existing. |
| 10.2 Participate in and promote future rounds of the Hertfordshire Solar Together bulk buying initiative, or equivalent. | Sustainability Officer Economic and Community Development Manager Customer and Communications Service Director | Solar Together scheme promoted to residents. | Existing. |
| 10.3 Increase allotment usage and promotion of the benefits of working an allotment. | Green Spaces Manager | Increase in allotment usage. | Additional funding required if a new site has to be cleared and facilities installed. |
| 10.4 Provide information on the Council's website to assist residents adopt a more sustainable lifestyle. | Customer and Communications Service Director Sustainability Officer. | Calendar of initiatives produced and promoted by social media. Website updated. | Existing. |
| 10.5 Help low income households access Government grants for energy efficiency improvements to their homes. | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer. | Delivery of Warm Homes: Local Grant funding (2025-March 2028). Ensure all targets are met. | External funding. |

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| | | Ensure all reporting to DESNZ is completed in timely and accurate manner. | |
| 10.6 Implement Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy. | Sustainability Officer | Work with HCCSP to implement the actions locally coming from the Hertfordshire Retrofit Strategy. | Existing. Countywide funding. |
| 10.7 Work with registered social landlords to develop further community gardens, projects to enhance access to green space and rewilding initiatives. | Economic and Community Development Manager External Partners | Projects developed with B3Living and Peabody. | Housing Association budgets |
| 10.8 Provide grants to support local community organisations to develop and deliver programmes and events to improve the environment. | Economic and Community Development Manager | Grants awarded. | Google Community and Environmental Engagement Programme. |
| 10.9 Explore options to facilitate Community Energy projects in Broxbourne. | Sustainability Officer | Organise event in partnership with Grand Union Community Energy (or similar) to raise awareness of community energy. Support local partners with accessing funding. | Existing. |
| 10.10 Engage with partners on the development and | Sustainability Officer | Contribute as appropriate. | Existing. |

| implementation of a Hertfordshire Local Area Energy Plan. | | | |
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| Objective 11: Encourage businesses to become more sustainable and to develop their resilience to climate risks. | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 11.1 Explore the feasibility of developing a heat network using excess heat from the Google Data Centre. | Sustainability Officer Assistant Director of Place | Identify current and future options for heat network zoning and commercialisation. Secure external funding. | S106 funding. Grant from DESNZ. |
| 11.2 Organise an annual event on sustainability for local businesses, to learn about reducing energy usage, sustainable procurement, home working etc. | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer. | Annual event held virtually or in person. | Existing. |
| 11.3 Promote take-up of grants currently available for Hertfordshire businesses from Low Carbon Workspaces. | Economic and Community Development Manager | Take-up promoted at business events and on Council website. | Existing. |
| 11.4 Provide grants to support local businesses to develop innovative sustainable practices. | Economic and Community Development Manager | Grants awarded. | Google Community and Environmental Engagement Programme. |
| 11.5 Encourage large developments in the Borough to | Economic and Community Development Manager | a) Number of people employed in Borough, b) Number of apprenticeships, | Existing. |

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| employ local people and use local supply chains. | | c) Number of local businesses supporting large developments, | |
| 11.6 Sponsor an annual award at the SME Hertfordshire Business Awards for sustainability in business. | Economic and Community Development Manager | Award sponsored. | Existing. |
| 11.7 Encourage larger businesses in the Borough to develop plans to reduce petrol and diesel vehicle use. | Economic and Community Development Manager | Evidence of guidance provided to local businesses. | Existing. |
| 11.8 Undertake mapping of green businesses in the Borough. | Economic and Community Development Manager Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce Hertfordshire Futures | Mapping exercise completed by Summer 2026. | Existing. |
| 11.9 Increase number of green businesses taking part in job fairs within the Borough. | Economic and Community Development Manager | Increase on year-by-year basis. | Existing. |
| <i>Objective 12: Work with partners to protect water sustainability.</i> | | | |
| Task | Responsibility | Target | Resourcing |
| 12.1 Assess and reduce water consumption on Council facilities. | Sustainability Officer | Assessment completed by Spring 2026. | Existing. |

| | | Reductions per annum from 2026/27 onwards. | |
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| 12.2 Raise awareness of water consumption to schools. | Sustainability Officer HCCSP Thames Water | Facilitate water company engagement with schools to provide education on the value of water saving. | Existing. |
| 12.3 Raise awareness of water consumption to residents. | HCCSP Sustainability Officer Customer and Communications Service Director | Promote countywide initiatives to raise awareness of water consumption and waste to residents. | Existing. |
| 12.4 Facilitate reduction in water consumption in social housing. | Economic and Community Development Manager Sustainability Officer | Local authorities to facilitate contact between water companies and housing associations in support of the installation of water saving devices. | Existing. |
| 12.5 Reduce flood risks. | Sustainability Officer | Engage with Environment Agency to facilitate and promote training and awareness raising for planning colleagues around flood risk. | Existing. |