

TOWARDS NET ZERO

A Strategy for Clean Growth in Hertfordshire



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Preface

Over the last decade – and guided firmly by its board – Hertfordshire LEP has developed a strong, coherent and consistent strategic narrative for Hertfordshire.

Previously, Hertfordshire was perceived as an apparently prosperous and 'leafy English shire county'. There was, with hindsight, a hint of complacency and some detachment from the realities of economic, social, technological and environmental change.

Through successive strategic statements – including an early Growth Strategy (in 2011/12), a Strategic Economic Plan (in 2014, and then updated in 2017); and a draft Local Industrial Strategy (2019) – Hertfordshire LEP has sought to change the discourse. It has highlighted the real opportunities available to businesses and communities across Hertfordshire, but also both the risks and the responsibilities that come with them. At the same time, it has 'shone a light' on what isn't working within Hertfordshire. It has highlighted some continuing tensions and contradictions that really do need to be addressed.

As we – like the rest of the UK – come to terms with the implications of the pandemic and the realities of life outside the EU, the LEP is developing a suite of strategic statements that will guide it through to the 2030s. These capture the learning of the last decade. They also anticipate a future that is likely to be guided by stronger imperatives linked to economic well-being in a rounded sense. Over the next decade, technological change will continue apace but environmental considerations will be prominent as will commitments to inclusivity. To be clear, economic growth will still be essential, but it will find new expressions in a global political economy characterised by new alliances, expectations and possibilities.

For Hertfordshire LEP, this will mean closer working relationships with partners, particularly with Hertfordshire Growth Board – whilst still recognising the crucial importance of a business-led partnership in defining, debating and

delivering an agenda for economic growth. It will also mean closer working relationships with neighbouring areas, recognising that businesses have scant regard for administrative boundaries and much will be gained from working across functional economic areas (in terms, for example, of supporting key clusters).

The suite of strategic statements will be a live resource and it will evolve over time. It will include:

- **foundational strategies** which will focus on the breadth of enterprise and innovation across 60,000 businesses, and the criticality of employment and skills across almost 1.2 million people
- **strategies which accelerate the growth of key clusters and sectors:** these are distinctive in their character and offer particular opportunities for high value and 'additional' growth which will equip Hertfordshire to compete internationally as well as nationally
- **strategies for responsible growth** in Hertfordshire including in relation to clean growth, inclusive growth, and growth which embraces the possibilities of digital technology in an informed and responsible manner.



Some of these strategies are firmly 'LEP business' as conventionally defined. Others stray well beyond the LEP's immediate areas of responsibility. However, they are crucial to businesses nonetheless and the LEP will help to drive them forward. But 'help' is the word: we recognise that this must be a partnership endeavour and here, the LEP's links to Hertfordshire Growth Board will be crucial.

This document sets out one of these suites of strategies. It is Hertfordshire's first strategy for Clean Growth. It presents a critical agenda for businesses in Hertfordshire. We are at once both challenged and excited by the possibilities presented through it. We are intent on working with partners to drive clean growth forward.

Key concepts

This strategy refers to a number of key concepts. These are inter-related, but they need to be understood fully:

The [green economy](#) refers to the [low carbon environmental goods and services \(LCEGS\) sector](#). The 'business' of this sector is either (a) to reduce/mitigate environmental impacts (e.g. dealing with pollution); or (b) to provide radically lower carbon solutions (e.g. based on wind power rather than fossil fuels).

[Cleantech](#) and [Envirotech](#) – are innovations within the LCEGS and they include activities which reduce water consumption, air and land pollution, and energy use. They are linked to greater sustainability.

[Clean growth](#) is an overarching ambition in relation to the economy as a whole. All sectors of the economy (from logistics to professional services and education) should contribute to it by reducing carbon emissions. However clean growth is not just about sector outputs. It includes, for example, the efficiency of the buildings in which businesses operate; and the manner in which those who work in businesses travel around. Within 'clean growth', there are many 'moving parts' and the inter-relationships between these are important.

Achieving clean(er) growth is critical vis-à-vis progress to [Net Zero](#). This will have been achieved when there is a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it.

[Natural capital](#) is the stock of natural assets (water, minerals, soils, woodlands, and wildlife, etc.) that underpin essential ecosystem services (such as food, timber, pollination, climate control). These assets, both directly and indirectly, contribute to the health of our ecosystems and to human wellbeing.

Introduction

In June 2019, the UK became the first major country to legislate for a Net Zero target for carbon emissions by 2050. The backdrop to this is growing recognition of the implications of climate change and the need to respond urgently. This is a huge, system-wide, challenge with many different facets.

For example:

- The natural environment is under huge pressure: growing populations, longer life expectancies and higher consumption have all increased the pressure on our natural resources. As a result, ecosystems services are under pressure.
- Air pollution, particularly from inefficient transport, is damaging ecosystems and biodiversity, and that in turn is harming our health and the resilience of our businesses.
- Poor use of resources is contributing not only to environmental pollution but also to sub-optimal business performance.

Cutting across these challenges, we should however recognise that **improving resource use efficiency and tackling climate change offers opportunities for both economic growth and jobs creation.**

The global markets for low-carbon technologies, electric vehicles and clean energy are growing fast. By one estimate, the UK's clean economy

could grow at four times the rate of GDP and – through low carbon technologies and the efficient use of resources – it is considered one of the greatest industrial opportunities of our time¹. It is, for example, estimated that London 'green economy' is worth more to London than the construction and manufacturing sectors combined (£40bn)². Within the energy sector, the National Grid Energy Workforce Report revealed that 400,000 jobs will need to be filled to get the UK to Net Zero by 2050³. Zero emission vehicles alone could support new 40,000 jobs in the UK by 2030⁴.

It is within this context that Hertfordshire LEP – working closely with partners county-wide – has developed this strategy. Its **overarching goal** is:

“To enable clean growth and achieve a greener, more sustainable, economy across Hertfordshire.”

The document that follows summarises the key drivers of change and distils Hertfordshire's particular strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in this context. It then describes our

¹ Ricardo Energy and Environment for the Committee on Climate Change (2017) UK business opportunities of moving to a low carbon economy www.theccc.org.uk/publication/uk-energy-prices-and-bills-2017-report-supporting-research/

² Mayor of London – London Assembly, <https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/london-s-recovery-coronavirus-crisis/recovery-context/green-new-deal#acc-i-61477>

³ Building the Net Zero Energy Workforce, National Grid, January 2020

⁴ The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, HM Government, November 2020

strategy for change, based around two overarching 'Pillars':

- [Pillar One](#) is concerned with accelerating enterprise and innovation, collaboration, and skills development to grow and attract the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Sector
- [Pillar Two](#) is focused on supporting a transition to clean growth across the economy as a whole.

The delivery of our Clean Growth strategy will need to be a collective effort. Hertfordshire LEP will take responsibility for driving forward [Pillar One](#) and elements of [Pillar Two](#). It will support Hertfordshire Growth Board and the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership across the breadth of priorities relating to infrastructure, transport and natural capital.

Drivers for change

Global drivers

Underpinning this strategy is a series of drivers for change that are evident at a **global scale**.

The goals of the **Paris Agreement** (a legally binding international treaty on climate change which was signed in 2015) and the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** will be advanced through the **UN's Climate Conference of Parties (COP26)** in 2021. The threats linked to climate change are widely recognised, and attitudes are changing. **'The Greta Effect'** for example means that awareness of climate change is the highest it has ever been, particularly in the younger generation. Increasingly the public is holding politicians and businesses to account.

At the same time, more businesses are seeing the value of environmental actions commercially. Rather than a 'nice to have', more sustainable business behaviour is becoming a 'must have' position. Globally, the tide appears to be turning and the imperative for clean growth is widely acknowledged.

Against this backdrop, the pandemic is also forcing a reappraisal of norms and expectations. This could herald a real opportunity to do things differently.

National drivers

In response, the UK Government has been at the forefront of encouraging the move towards clean growth and is determined to play an international leading role in providing the technologies, innovations, goods and services of this future. The UK is leading the way in international climate change agreements and is hosting COP26.

Published alongside Budget 2021, *Build Back Better: The Plan for Growth* emphasises the importance of a green recovery. In the Queen's Speech – delivered on 11th May 2021 – the commitment was made to invest in new green industries to create jobs, while protecting the environment; and to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

This builds on a range of earlier commitments and statements, some of which are summarised in the table below.

Table 1: Key national policy statements

Climate Change Act (2008)	This provides the legal basis for Government's commitment to Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050 and its intention to improve air quality, a significant contributor to poor health.
Energy White Paper (2020)	This sets out specific steps the Government will take to cut emissions from industry, transport, and buildings. In particular, it seeks to ' <i>catalyse</i> ' investment into renewable generation, smart grids, battery technology, carbon capture and storage in addition to supporting the decarbonisation of transport and heat. It will also seek to support embryonic markets for innovative products and services giving industry the certainty it needs to invest in low carbon technologies.
The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020)	This demonstrates Government's commitment to using intervention to repair the economic damage of Covid-19 and build back better by supporting green jobs and accelerating our path to net zero. This Plan, through its Net Zero Task Force,

	will mobilise £12 billion of government investment, and potentially three times as much from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs.
National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)	This focuses on decarbonizing infrastructure networks and levelling up the economy.
Environment Bill (2020)	The Bill (and the Act that follows) will be Government's key legally binding vehicle to combat the climate crises facing the UK. It will set out a 25 Year Environment Plan and support Government's pledge to "Build Back Better" with measures to drive clean green economic growth. It will also stimulate investments in green technology and innovative practices by providing long term certainty for businesses and investors. Equally, its 'polluter will play principle' will protect the environment and be integrated into general policy making principles. In addition, the Bill will bring forward future key strategies - the Clean Air Strategy and the Climate Change Net Zero Strategy - both of which will grow the UK's local economies through creating green jobs and building sustainable income streams whilst cutting greenhouse gases.
The Committee on Climate Change (CCC)	This has made recommendations to Government to go further and faster to tackle climate change, including proposals for dramatic business and commercial building energy performance improvements and large-scale energy storage facilities. Chris Stark, the CCC chief executive, said that decarbonising buildings could create 200,000 jobs and "breathe life into the UK economy". The CCC says that by 2028, the government should aim for all homes that are sold to be at least rated C for energy performance. More than 65 per cent of the 15.5 million owner-occupied homes are below this rating at present.
Agriculture Act (2020) and Environmental Land Management Scheme	The Agriculture Act sets out how farmers and land managers will be rewarded in the future with public money for "public goods" – such as better air and water quality, thriving wildlife, soil health, or measures to reduce flooding and tackle the effects of climate change, under the Environmental Land Management scheme.
State of Nature Report (2019)	This highlights that 1 in 8 UK species are at risk of extinction and that 41% of species in the UK have decreased in numbers since 1970. Businesses and nature are inextricably connected.

In addition, various changes in central government policy/strategy are expected which will further emphasise the importance of clean growth. These include:

- Planning Reforms
- Industrial decarbonisation strategy
- Extended Producer Responsibility (to eliminate packaging waste and drive innovation in the packaging supply chain)
- Future mobility where all new cars and vans will be effectively zero emission by 2035

- Future Homes Standard where new homes and commercial buildings built from 2025 will be zero carbon-ready.

Government is investing to engineer a "green recovery" and grow a green economy. It will issue a sovereign green bond in 2021; this will help finance projects that will tackle climate change, finance infrastructure investment and create green jobs across the country⁵. Government has also put in place a range of funding programmes to accelerate a green recovery, including:

- £3bn energy efficiency programme focused on building a low carbon future, which includes the public sector decarbonisation grant and the social housing decarbonisation fund.
- £1.3bn for accelerating EV charge points rollout and £582m in grants for those buying zero emission vehicles (commercial and private)
- £200m Sustainable Innovation Fund
- £350m to be made available to cut emissions in heavy industry, construction, space and transport
- £5bn for Green Travel Solutions
- £1bn Carbon Capture and Storage Infrastructure Fund
- £1bn Net Zero Innovation Portfolio Fund.

The consequence of these drivers should be the creation of whole new industries and the transformation of existing industries as we move towards a low carbon, more resource-efficient economy.

Local drivers

Locally, Hertfordshire's population is expected to rise by up to 175,000 by 2031, with at least 100,000 new homes and 100,000 new jobs to be

created over the same period⁶. Hertfordshire must respond to growth pressures from areas outside its boundaries including London and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. This growth will place further demand on our natural capital resources. In parallel, Hertfordshire's local authorities have declared a climate emergency.

Within Hertfordshire, a number of strategies and plans are particularly important in driving clean growth:

- **Hertfordshire LEP's Economic Recovery Plan** This charts a clear route through the effects of the pandemic and defines actions to accelerate economic recovery and future good growth.
- **HCC's Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020** This countywide strategy sets out ambitious environmental goals. The LEP has a leading role to play, working in partnership with business to deliver these local sustainability goals and support the Hertfordshire Zero Carbon 2050 target. Key strategic priorities that will affect our businesses include:
 - A net zero greenhouse gas county before 2050
 - Ensuring businesses are ready and resilient to future climates
 - Increasing resource efficiency threefold in the county by 2050
 - Clean air for all by 2030
 - Nothing sent to landfill by 2030
- **HCC's Local Transport Plan (LTP4)** This sets out how transport can help deliver a positive future vision for Hertfordshire, including reducing environmental damage. The plan actively encourages more sustainable travel behaviour and considers how emerging technology might affect the

⁵ See HM Treasury, Financial Services Statement, November 2020

⁶ Hertfordshire Growth Board

way that transport needs to be provided in the longer term.

Two county-wide partnerships are critically important:

- Hertfordshire Growth Board** All ten district and borough councils, Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership have come together to collaborate, accelerate and make responsible clean growth happen across political and geographical boundaries. Through its Housing Consortium, it is particularly focussed on accelerating housing delivery using smart construction and low carbon methods.
- Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership** This group includes the ten district and borough councils, Hertfordshire County Council and the LEP, and is focused on reducing Hertfordshire-wide climate changes. Action plans are being developed to tackle water, carbon reduction, transport and biodiversity-related issues.

Key organisations within Hertfordshire are already playing an important role.

For example, **West Herts College** recently produced the 'Hertfordshire Green Skills Strategy' that outlines the economic profile, educational

provision and green skills context within Hertfordshire. It proposes a new collaborative response of educational and employer providers working together to deliver targeted, modern skills across the region, adding a new dimension to the curriculum and qualifications available to support the development of green skills and the green economy agenda. In addition, the College's 'Sector Profile and Skills Analysis Report' focuses specifically on the agri-tech and smart construction sectors' future growth and future skills demand for Hertfordshire⁷.

University of Hertfordshire's new Centre for Climate Change Research brings together over 50 multi-disciplined academics to focus on understanding the impacts from climate change on our society and developing adaptation and mitigation strategies to aid sustainable development. Its Zero Carbon Lab is a unique research group leading collaboration with industry and academia on facilitating the wider take-up of zero carbon design, retrofit of buildings and on wider societal sustainability issues. In parallel, UH's School of Engineering and Computer Science is leading research in advanced materials, energy, and sustainable design in applied mechanics.

Hertfordshire LEP is already working with a wide range of partners and through an array of partnerships to stimulate and support clean growth. Short summaries of a range of on-going activities are provided in the graphic below.

Table 2: What Hertfordshire LEP is doing to drive forward clean growth in Hertfordshire – and why

	What we are doing....	...and why
Green Buildings and Construction	With BRE, the Construction Innovation Hub, the soon-to-be-developed Open Innovation Hub, and the home of several leading tier 1 construction companies all in county, Hertfordshire is leading the way in the transition to sustainable construction and green buildings. This includes the possibilities linked to offsite manufacturing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings are a major source of carbon emissions and a transition to green buildings is a priority of UK government. Within Hertfordshire, we have major assets on which to build.

⁷ See Sector Profile and Skills Analysis Report by Emsi for West Herts College, April 2021

	<p>This position, and opportunity to access funds, is strengthened by the Herts IQ smart construction cluster, our focus on construction skills through our FE Colleges and University of Hertfordshire, and the recent announcements of Net Zero strategies by several local tier 1 construction companies (e.g. Willmott Dixon).</p> <p>A Net Zero construction drive will filter down through our local supply chain creating opportunities for innovation and growth (like retrofitters, heat pump installers).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With 100,000 new homes planned by 2031, Hertfordshire can be at the forefront of producing sustainable built environments.
<p>Herts IQ and the Herts IQ Network</p>	<p>The development of Herts IQ's smart construction cluster, underpinned by BRE's innovation strength and Hertfordshire's capacity in construction, is attracting new companies to the area involved in delivering low and zero-carbon built environment solutions, creating skilled jobs for local people.</p> <p>Similarly, building a cluster around Rothamsted Research's international leadership in crop science and its focus on climate projects is attracting inward investment and businesses connected with agri-tech/science; again this is creating green economy growth and high-skilled local jobs.</p> <p>Equally, attracted by Herts IQ's core principles of an aspirational sustainable built environment, envirotech businesses is a priority.</p> <p>Combined with its partnerships with the University of Hertfordshire and our FE Colleges, Herts IQ is at the forefront of supporting green talent and skills development to enable local people to access the new jobs created. In addition, the Herts IQ Network will build a sector focused community connecting like-minded green tech businesses and collaboration opportunities with its partners across the county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Enterprise Zone is a flagship venture in Hertfordshire and from the outset we have championed different aspects of clean growth. We have already made progress which we need to sustain.

<p>HE and FE College estates</p>	<p>The LEP has heavily invested in our Higher and Further Education College estates to ensure the availability of leading facilities that help to empower our next generation and meet the future skill needs of our local businesses. To achieve our ambition of more and better jobs, the LEP also drives engagement between education and enterprise. By ensuring that employers are given a pivotal role in working with educational providers, local and regional skill needs can be met. We offer relevant green skills through courses like environmental management, smart construction, advanced manufacturing and digital technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been able to support the improvement of FE college estates and we have sought to improve environmental outcomes in the process • We have sought to encourage and expand a supply of green skills
<p>Strong Business Community and Networking Partnerships</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP has strong and positive relationships with many influential business-facing organisations. These include the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce (named the UK's fastest growing Chamber in 2019), Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors, CITB and Greater South East Energy Hub. Working collaboratively on projects, like energy feasibility studies or marketing campaigns, will strengthen and accelerate the delivery of Hertfordshire's clean growth plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business networks will play a crucial role in interfacing with Hertfordshire's 60,000 businesses which will be important in achieving clean growth

Clean Growth in Hertfordshire: Summary SWOT

Hertfordshire has both strengths and weaknesses currently in relation to clean growth. Looking ahead it is facing both opportunities and threats – and it needs to navigate a fast-changing landscape. The Strategy that follows seeks to respond in full.

Strengths

- First-cut analysis (based on data from BRES) suggests that the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector may be of reasonable scale in Hertfordshire; if this is correct, it suggests strengths on which to build.
- Substantial headway has been made through Herts IQ which has had a strong focus on environmental technologies from the outset. This provides a launchpad for the wider clean growth strategy.
- BRE is nationally significant in relation to sustainable construction and it is a key asset in relation to clean growth.
- Rothamsted Research has major research specialisms in agritech which provide a basis for more sustainable agriculture and horticulture.
- University of Hertfordshire’s new Centre for Climate Change Research brings together over 50 multi-disciplined academics involved in climate change.
- Hertfordshire LEP has excellent relationships with many of its business communities and networks, giving it a clear route for engaging with businesses to deliver clean growth and net zero opportunities and actions.
- Partners in Hertfordshire have found ways to invest in clean growth through available funding streams, for example the SHAKE Climate Change programme.
- Businesses report that environmental action results in improved employee engagement, increased productivity, cost savings, innovation and growth.

Weaknesses

- Lack of knowledge, know-how and tools will affect businesses’ ability to reduce waste, decarbonise and transform. Equally, where there is knowledge but a lack of sufficient skilled labour, businesses will fail to adapt.
- An unsympathetic environment for change (including tenant/landlord arrangements, outdated procurement practices, planning restraints, ease of access to green funds, limited EV infrastructure and renewable energy generation availability) will limit clean growth potential.
- Rural access to some green enabling services (such as digital connectivity and EV charging points) may limit green uptake for some businesses: there is tangible evidence of ‘EV range anxiety’.

- Planning policy and approaches to infrastructure procurement are adapting slowly to the possibilities of clean growth, particularly with regards to renewable energy generation and EV infrastructure.
- National retrofit skills shortages are limiting Hertfordshire's ability to make energy efficiency improvements to existing homes – evidenced through failure of Green Homes Grant.

Opportunities

- Specifically targeting and supporting green growth will increase business growth and innovation opportunities, and is aligned to the LEP Enterprise and Innovation Strategy.
- Gearing up to clean growth should aid economic and business post Covid-19 recovery; it also accelerates Hertfordshire's effectiveness in reaching to its Net Zero goals.
- Public awareness and Government commitment (Bills, legislation, task forces and funding) has never been stronger for green action and growth.
- New green skills development, clean upskilling and general education on environmental action should change behaviour.
- Alignment with the LEP's skills strategy will address the green skills needs and increase new green job vacancies across all ability levels, including: professionals involved in the Emission Trading Systems, tradespeople for home retrofit measures and new EV car mechanics.
- Hertfordshire LEP is well placed to influence and grow a green economy given the county's significant growth and housing development plans (garden cities communities, town centre regeneration projects and Herts IQ); its access to wider out of county developments (Cambridge – Oxford Arc and London); and its world-renowned local assets (including BRE, Rothamsted Research and University of Hertfordshire).
- Hertfordshire's major new development plans provide 'easier' routes to acting holistically, linking green upskilling, sustainable construction and smart mobility, all showcasing responsible clean Hertfordshire and a growing green economy. These developments could lead to opportunities for new forms of green financing (like Green Municipal Bonds), decentralised energy networks (such as ESCOs) and accelerated EV rollout.
- Hertfordshire is well placed to piggyback off the growth of the green London economy and build and demonstrate its own expertise around sustainable construction.
- Good alignment to the LEP's digital strategy, and the increasing use of smart connected digital systems will enable green technology innovation and a smarter, more sustainable economy.

Threats

- Loss of competitive edge as businesses failure to adapt to customer and supply chain net zero expectations and requirements.
- As a southern shire county, Hertfordshire may struggle to secure public sector resource to help accelerate clean growth
- Risk of doing nothing – Hertfordshire won't reach its Net Zero targets – without clear strategy

- Innovation and technology used to tackle climate change is continuously changing and developing, resulting in the potential risk of investing in a technology that quickly becomes out of date.
- Businesses want clarity with strong long-term targets and a stable investment environment (a key finding of the Aldersgate Group report⁸).

⁸ Rebuilding to Last: How to design an inclusive, resilient and sustainable growth strategy after COVID-19, Report for the Aldersgate Group <https://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/asset/1684>

A Clean Growth Strategy for Hertfordshire

The scope of the agenda associated with clean growth is enormous. There is significant activity underway, but there is much more that needs to be done. It is for this reason that this Strategy has been developed.

Clean growth will be achieved by:

- **developing the green economy** through the growth of the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and **Services** (LCEGS) sector (this is a **vertical** definition); and
- **delivering transformational wider outcomes** to which all parts of the economy and all places within Hertfordshire should contribute (this is a cross-cutting, **horizontal**, definition).

In practice, the difference between these is far from absolute. However, these two perspectives are helpful because:

- *by accelerating the development of the sector*, we will be achieving economic growth and we will also be providing the tools for a wider transition to clean growth in Hertfordshire and beyond
- *by advancing the key outcomes*, we will touch on every business, place and community in Hertfordshire, and we will identify the range of steps that can be taken to achieve growth in a way that reduces our overall environmental footprint and contributes to Net Zero targets.

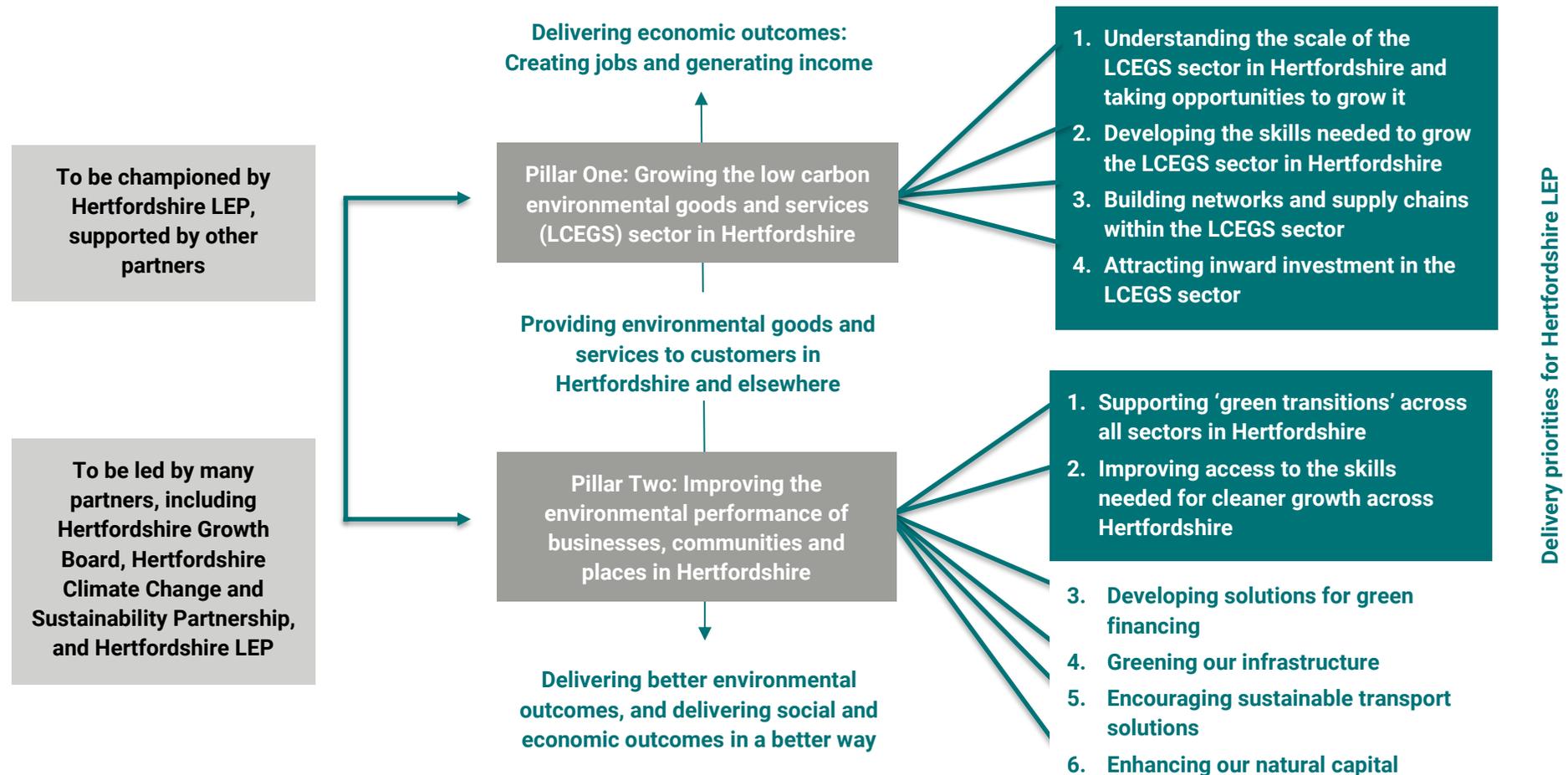
We are treating these different perspectives as Pillars for our overall strategy.

Using this structure, the main elements of our Clean Growth Strategy are illustrated in the graphic overleaf.

In delivering this Strategy, some aspects are for Hertfordshire LEP to lead. Other themes will need to be led by partners (particularly within the wider Hertfordshire Growth Board), but Hertfordshire LEP will actively support these.

Figure 1: A Clean Growth Strategy for Hertfordshire

Enabling clean growth to achieve a greener, more sustainable, economy across Hertfordshire



Pillar One: Growing the low carbon environmental goods and services sector in Hertfordshire

Over the next ten years, we will accelerate the growth of the Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector. It will be treated as a priority sector – like several others – and the full range of LEP levers will be brought to bear in supporting its growth. Our aim will be to increase the number of jobs and businesses in the sector, and the value of output that is generated.

1: Understanding the scale of the LCEGS sector in Hertfordshire – and taking opportunities to grow it

The quest for clean growth is leading to the emergence of new businesses and the ‘refocusing’ of existing ones. Influential analyses have described an overall **Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector**⁹. This is driven out of three main sub-sectors:

- **environmental sub-sectors** – which are concerned with different forms of pollution and waste, and how these are managed
- **renewable energy sub-sectors** – which include wind, biomass, geothermal energy, etc.
- **low carbon sub-sectors** – which include a range of activities from nuclear power through to building technologies.

Currently, the scale and character of the LCEGS sector in Hertfordshire is not well understood. A first-cut analysis suggests that:

- in 2019, there were over 15,000 employee jobs (based on data from BRES) in sectors associated with LCEGS (although further analysis is needed to form a view on whether these are ‘clean’); at a county level, a location quotient of 1.3 (relative to England) suggests some level of relative specialisation and strengths on which to build
- overall, in 2019, the district with the highest number of associated jobs was Welwyn Hatfield, and the districts with the highest location quotients were Three Rivers and Hertsmere (both had a location quotient of more than 2.0 relative to England).

In practice, these observations reflect the strength of the construction sector, which is recognised as a major sector in Hertfordshire. Whether it is contributing to clean growth currently needs more investigation. A detailed analysis of Hertfordshire’s LCEGS sector will enable Herts LEP to fully understand and unlock its green economic growth potential.

More generally, according to Beauhurst (which tracks 30,000 of the UK’s high-growth companies), the total value of fundraisings within

⁹ <https://data.gov.uk/> and Low Carbon Economy reports by kMatrix Data Services

the cleantech industry grew exponentially year-on-year from 2017 (£181m raised) to 2019 (£427m raised). Even with global financial downturn caused by the Covid-19 crisis, cleantech companies have maintained their importance in the eyes of investors. To what extent is Hertfordshire part of this process?

Evidence from similar economies elsewhere suggests that we may be surprised by the scale of the LCEGS sector in Hertfordshire, particularly

if 'non-core supply chain' business activities are considered. For example, Hertfordshire's technical professional service sector may be playing a key role around Net Zero with expert professionals involved in the costing, thinking, persuasion, feasibility and planning of what needs to be done around sustainable activities. If this is the case, there may be an opportunity to coalesce expert knowledge around a peer network of technical, legal and finance professionals.

Priority Action 1: To commission research to provide a deeper analysis and understanding of Hertfordshire's current LCEGS sector and green investment landscape.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP

Timescale: Short term

2: Developing the skills needed to grow the LCEGS sector in Hertfordshire

There is a need to understand better the requirements of the LCEGS sector in relation to skills and workforce development. These insights will be developed through the proposed research outlined above, and through a close dialogue with our partners. At the same time, we need to raise awareness of the opportunities for exciting and meaningful jobs within the sector, recognising that its growth will be one strand of Hertfordshire's recovery from the pandemic as well as working towards longer term goals.

Priority Action 2: To investigate skills gaps in the LCEGS sector and stimulate possible solutions and skills development.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP, UH, FE Colleges and Career & Enterprise Company

Timescale: Medium term

Priority Action 3: To address skills gaps already identified within key LCEGS sectors – including construction (where we need to deliver homes consistent with Future Homes Standards); retrofit skills (to improve the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock); and skills linked to EV infrastructure and EV car maintenance.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP working with key FE/HE partners

Timescale: Short to long term

Priority Action 4: To support HOP and raise awareness of the LCEGS career and job opportunities for all, especially for young people and their parents.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP Careers Hub

Timescale: Short-medium term

3: Building networks and supply chains within the LCEGS sector

We recognise that in many parts of the economy, businesses perform better if they are part of a meaningful network or ecosystem. This enables them to work together and – in the process – share knowledge and insights. Frequently networks of this nature are a route to innovation. They are also important in enabling new-start businesses to survive and grow – particularly as they are used to ‘de-risk’ early-stage investment.

Within Hertfordshire currently, there are emerging hubs for the LCEGS sector. For example, Herts IQ plays a pivotal role through the development of its smart construction, agri tech and envirotech cluster. The Herts IQ Network is set to build a community of like-minded businesses

that will stimulate future collaboration and innovation opportunities with its members. We need to continue to develop Herts IQ as a focal point for the sector.

In addition, we need to work with wider business networks across the county (e.g. Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce, Biz4biz Hemel Business Ambassadors, sector-specific networking groups) and through the Growth Hub. These have relationships with a wide range of businesses which could find market opportunities – either directly or through the wider supply chain – in relation to the LCEGS sector, and they need to be part of the wider growth journey.

Priority Action 5: To support the on-going growth of Herts IQ, and its Network.

Lead: Herts IQ, BRE, Rothamsted Enterprises, UH

Timescale: Ongoing

Priority Action 6: To grow a broader LCEGS business community (virtual cluster) to stimulate knowledge exchange, collaboration and innovation, through the Herts IQ Network and the Growth Hub.

Lead: Herts LEP/ Herts Growth Hub and other partners like HIQ and HCCSP

Timescale: Ongoing commitment

Priority Action 7: To encourage angel investment groups across Hertfordshire to support start-up businesses in LCEGS sectors.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP

Timescale: Medium term

4: Attracting inward investment in the LCEGS sector

Using Hertfordshire’s key sector assets and major development opportunities (like the Hemel Garden Community and Stevenage Regeneration), the LEP will drive marketing and LCEGS inward investment campaigns that set

Hertfordshire apart from other areas and are aligned with Hertfordshire’s clean growth aspirations. In particular, Herts IQ is a major venture within Hertfordshire and it provides an unique focal point for inward investment targeted at the opportunities linked to the LCEGS sector.

Priority Action 8: To develop a LCEGS inward investment marketing campaign

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP and Herts IQ supported by Herts Growth Board and Planners

Timescale: Ongoing

Pillar Two: Improving the environmental performance of businesses, communities and places across Hertfordshire

The broader agenda for improving Hertfordshire’s environmental performance needs to be a truly collective endeavour. Many different partners need to contribute and working in partnership will be key.

There is a business and skills strand to this – which relates to all of our 60,000 firms and the 640,000 economically active residents. Across these elements, Hertfordshire LEP has a significant role to play – but not a solitary one.

With regard to wider issues linked to infrastructure, transport and natural capital, it will support the work of Hertfordshire Growth Board. The priorities set out below have been defined in this context.

1: Supporting ‘green transitions’ across all sectors in Hertfordshire

In delivering better environmental outcomes, Hertfordshire LEP will work closely with intermediary partners, businesses and relevant supportive services to deliver environmental transformation advice and support. This will involve steering and signposting businesses towards supportive advice that will increase knowledge. It will empower individual businesses to take transformational action consistent with the broader aims of clean growth.

Hertfordshire Growth Hub will play a significant role in supporting this transformational process, working alongside other networks. Other specific actions are identified below. Many of these are of a ‘campaigning’ nature (tools, signposting, information) and the intention is to launch them at the Herts COP26 in November.

Priority Action 1: To deliver a sustained ‘Net Zero Low Cost’ campaign to signpost businesses to the Growth Hub for green support and advice. This signposting will include information on green funding, environmental accreditation, and operational guidance to support environmental transformation.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP, Hertfordshire Growth Hub and HCC&SP

Timescale: Short term

Priority Action 2: To promote BEIS's Energy Technology List (ETL) which identifies 60,000 energy-saving products for businesses and the public sector. The intention will be to encourage businesses in Hertfordshire to use the ETL as both purchasers and suppliers.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP, Hertfordshire Growth Hub and other business-facing intermediaries

Timescale: Short term

Priority Action 3: To develop a value procurement approach for major projects supported by the Herts LEP.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP

Timescale: Medium term

Priority Action 4: To compile and deliver a clear and illustrative Net Zero checklist of key best practise actions, and to promote this list to businesses across Hertfordshire.

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Hub supported by GSEEH, Eastern New Energy, Low Carbon Workplaces and Energy Savings Trust

Timescale: Medium term

Priority Action 5: Carbon focus – To engage with a few high energy using businesses keen to transform for quick business zero carbon wins. The checklists and case studies used for this process and lessons learned will be disseminated widely.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP, GSEEH and/or Low Carbon Workplaces

Timescale: Medium term

Priority Action 6: To build the capacity and capability of SMEs to report carbon emissions, enabling them to compete with larger companies which record this and use it as a selling tool or a purchasing requirement.

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Hub and Business intermediaries supported by LEP

Timescale: Medium term

2: Improving access to the skills needed for cleaner growth across Hertfordshire

The Government's Green Jobs Task Force, established to support the creation of 2 million jobs by 2030, is enabling the skills sector to adapt to Net Zero¹⁰, and grow.

What this might mean in practice was considered through the '*Building the Net Zero Energy Workforce*' Report, an independent study by the

¹⁰ BEIS Press Release, Nov 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk->

[government-launches-taskforce-to-support-drive-for-2-million-green-jobs-by-2030](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-taskforce-to-support-drive-for-2-million-green-jobs-by-2030)

National Grid¹¹. In addition to existing jobs roles (such as project management, maintenance fitters, electrical engineering, welding trades) and an overarching requirement for STEM skills, emerging skills requirements were identified as follows:

- digital and data skills
- designing and implementing new technologies
- scientists and engineering skills in renewable energy

- technicians to install and maintain energy systems
- industry communications and change management
- AI skills (machine learning to prediction modelling).

This list is clearly a long one, and it aligns with Hertfordshire's emerging Skills and Employment Strategy. It will be important that this is delivered with the priorities linked to clean growth firmly in view.

Priority Action 7: To ensure that in delivering Hertfordshire's Skills and Employment Strategy, the priorities linked to clean growth (including upskilling) across all parts of the economy are clearly recognised.

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP, HCC, DWP

Timescale: Short to long term

Priority Action 8: To work through supply chains across major development projects (such as Herts IQ and Hemel Garden Communities) to identify opportunities for 'green skills'; and then to connect these with major skills providers (e.g. BRE, CITB FE Colleges, etc.).

Lead: Hertfordshire LEP working with key partners from construction and among skills providers

Timescale: Short term

3: Developing solutions for green financing

In seeking to deliver Clean Growth, new forms of financing might be required. However – particularly following the pandemic – there may be real opportunities on which to build. For example:

- Nationally it is estimated that for every 150,000 people, some £6bn of investments and savings are held which may be accessible through crowdfunding (HMRC & ONS, 2020).
- Post Covid-19, rebuilding local authority funds will take time, but the potential from green municipal bonds is huge (5%

equates to £300m) and 72% of people across the UK want to lend money to Councils to help develop Climate Change Plans.

Elsewhere in the UK there are examples of innovative green financing arrangements being put in place. Abundance, for example, is a FCA regulated crowd funding platform that developed the West Berks Community Municipal Investment Bond. Abundance enables anyone to invest (from as little as £5) in order to accelerate the delivery of Net Zero and has so far raised over £110m for UK green infrastructure projects.

¹¹ Building the Net Zero Energy Workforce, National Grid, January 2020

Priority Action 9: To raise awareness of green financing opportunities that are being developed nationally (e.g. Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF2), the Low Carbon Workspaces grant and the Clean Growth Fund) and ensure businesses/communities in Hertfordshire are sign-posted to them.

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Hub and HCCSP Timescale: Short to long term

Priority Action 10: To explore the possibilities of Green Municipal Bonds in Hertfordshire and, on a more targeted basis, across broader geographies.

Lead: Growth Board Timescale: Medium term

4: Greening our infrastructure

Led by the Growth Board, partners in Hertfordshire will work together to ensure that all major developments are futureproofed and exemplary in environmental terms. This includes, for example, ensuring that building specifications such as BREEAM are implemented and that digital connectivity allows for future proofing of smart mobility and inclusivity.

There is a need to ensure that infrastructure projects actively encourage and incorporate renewable energy generation opportunities. This will align with the UK’s commitment to decentralisation, decarbonisation, deregulation and digitalisation (the 4Ds) for transforming the energy market and power networks¹². Consideration will also be given to new energy technologies and power management vehicles such as supporting battery storage facilities (like at Stocking Pelham near Bishop’s Stortford) and the use of ESCO models in major developments.

Aligned to the Herts EV strategy¹³ and Government’s current EV investment funding, there is a need to accelerate EV infrastructure rollout, particularly for EV rapid stations (like petrol stations), destination charging (such as at train stations and supermarkets) and expectations on exemplary digital connectivity to aid smart mobility opportunities. Coupled with batteries that are now capable of being fully charged in five minutes, these are future game changers as ‘range anxiety’ (not cost) is the number one barrier to the adoption of electric vehicles¹⁴. An increase in the uptake of EV vehicle and fleet will dramatically reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality, create green jobs and future proof businesses (particularly the logistics sector) as more cities establish clean air zones or ultra-low emission zones (affecting fleet vehicle access).

¹² Energy Systems Catapult, Decarbonisation of Complex Sites, HIQ, June 2020; and see <https://renenergy.co.uk/insight/what-are-the-4ds-of-energy-and-why-do-they-matter/>

¹³ <https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=4766#mgDocuments>

¹⁴Venson Automotive Solutions, 2019 Survey: <https://www.venson.com/media/ViewNews/165>

Priority Action 11: To encourage development partners to pursue a sustainable built environment including zero-carbon buildings, smart low carbon travel options (including EV rollout) and a zero-carbon energy infrastructure for major development projects.

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Board

Timescale: Short to long term

Priority Action 12: To support the Eastern New Energy Maylands Decarbonisation project and to promote lessons learnt to other industrial areas.

Lead: Eastern New Energy and Dacorum Borough Council

Timescale: Medium term

Priority Action 13: To encourage our existing and new enterprise and innovation spaces throughout the county to promote and support clean growth enterprises; for example through signposting of green funds and green skills provision.

Lead: LEP supported by Herts Growth Hub, HCC&SP, and UH plus Growth Board

Timescale: Ongoing commitment

Priority Action 14: To give consideration to sustainability issues and value procurement in relation to major projects (including those funded by the LEP).

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Board supported by LEP

Timescale: Short to long term

5: Encouraging sustainable transport solutions

In seeking to achieve the wider ambitions linked to clean growth, sustainable transport solutions are a priority. Responsibilities in this domain sit mainly with Hertfordshire County Council – as the strategic transport authority – and the Growth Board. Over the next decade, Hertfordshire’s Local Transport Plan 2018 -2031 (LTP4) aims to accelerate the transition from a previous transport strategy that was largely car

based to a more balanced approach which caters for all forms of transport and seeks to encourage a switch from the private car to sustainable transport (e.g. walking, cycling and passenger transport) wherever possible. LTP4 sets out the objectives, policies, and key schemes that will achieve this switch. In addition, some more specific actions are to be supported.

Priority Action 15: To continue to promote and support innovative and sustainable transport solutions in Hertfordshire.

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Board, HCC and others

Timescale: Long term

6: Enhancing our natural capital

In seeking to achieve clean growth, it will be important that the range of challenges linked to natural capital is taken on board fully. This is an enormous agenda. Some headway is being made through the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy (2020) which sets out policies and strategies needed to embed sustainability across

all of Hertfordshire County Council's operations and services and throughout the county; enhancing natural capital is an important element. More generally, there is a need to work towards a natural capital approach which recognises – and values – nature as an asset (or set of assets) that benefit people¹⁵.

Priority Action 16: To deliver the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and work towards a natural capital approach

Lead: Hertfordshire Growth Board, HCC and others

Timescale: Long term

¹⁵ *Enabling a Natural Capital Approach: Guidance*, Defra, March 2020

Governance and Resourcing

Governance

This Strategy needs to be delivered by partners within and beyond Hertfordshire. [Hertfordshire LEP](#) will oversee the delivery of [Pillar One](#), working alongside key partners. In relation to [Pillar Two](#), it will take lead responsibility for the actions focused on businesses and skills. Other elements (linked to infrastructure, transport and natural capital) will be led by other partners, notably:

- [Hertfordshire Growth Board](#) – which is looking to make responsible clean growth happen across political and geographical boundaries.
- [Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership](#) – which is focused on reducing Hertfordshire-wide climate changes and is developing action plans to tackle water, carbon reduction, transport and biodiversification related issues.

Once this clean growth strategy is reviewed, and its ideas are verified by key partners and stakeholders, the LEP will develop detailed delivery plans for the priority activities as set out in this document. These delivery plans will quantify the resources needed, allocate where other organisations (like the Growth Hub, HCC&SP, Growth Board etc) can have a leading or supportive role to play, and set out a mechanism to evaluate impact in terms of economic and environmental/ CO₂ benefits.

A summary table listing all the priority activities to accelerate business zero carbon transformation and clean economic growth is provided in Annex A.

Required Resources

Resourcing the activities outlined above will require access to national and local funds and grants (such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, SME Growth Fund and Low Carbon Workspaces grant), new approaches to finance (like green bonds) and 'in kind' expert advice and support from partner and environmental organisations such as GSEEH, Energy Savings Trust, and Planet Mark.

Internal resources to manage a deliverable programme of clean growth each year will require:

- Dedicated staffing resource including a Clean Growth Manager
- To agree an initial operational budget for securing external support/ expertise (economic and skills analysis, marketing campaigns, etc)
- £4K contribution to HCC&SP countywide sustainable activities.

KPIs and outcomes

A full set of KPIs must reflect the goal of this strategy:

“To enable clean growth and achieve a greener, more sustainable, economy across Hertfordshire.”

KPIs will need to be quantified – with both a baseline and a target – and progress towards targets should be monitored over time.

There is a need for work in establishing a baseline and setting ambitious (but also realistic) targets. However, the key indicators have been identified in relation to both Pillars of the strategy.

Pillar One: Growing the low carbon environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector in Hertfordshire

Key indicators in relation to [Pillar One](#) include:

- Jobs in LCEGS sectors
- Uptake and increase in green skill qualifications
- GVA generated through LCEGS sectors
- New businesses created in LCEGS sectors

with the commitments in Hertfordshire County Council’s Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy 2020. These are aligned with its goals:

- Net zero greenhouse gas county before 2050
- Our communities are ready for future climates
- Improve wildlife in our land and water by 20% by 2050
- Clean air for all by 2030
- Increase resource efficiency threefold in the County by 2050.

Pillar Two: Improving the environmental performance of businesses, communities and places in Hertfordshire

Key indicators in relation to [Pillar Two](#) include:

- Businesses seeking support/advice in issues linked to clean(er) growth
- Businesses measuring – and then improving – their carbon footprint
- Businesses investing in workforce skills that support clean(er) growth

In addition, we will contribute to – and be informed by – county-level monitoring consistent

Annex A: Actions to deliver the Clean Growth Strategy

Pillar One: Growing the low carbon environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector in Hertfordshire

Priority Action	Lead	Timescale
1: Understanding the scale of the LCEGS sector in Hertfordshire – and taking opportunities to grow it		
Priority Action 1: To commission research to provide a deeper analysis and understanding of Hertfordshire’s current LCEGS sector and green investment landscape.	Hertfordshire LEP	Short term
2: Developing the skills needed to grow the LCEGS sector in Hertfordshire		
Priority Action 2: To investigate skills gaps in the LCEGS sector and stimulate possible solutions and skills development.	Hertfordshire LEP, UH, FE Colleges and Career & Enterprise	Medium term
Priority Action 3: To address skills gaps already identified within key LCEGS sectors – including construction (where we need to deliver homes consistent with Future Homes Standards); retrofit skills (to improve the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock); and skills linked to EV infrastructure and EV car maintenance.	Hertfordshire LEP working with key FE/HE partners	Short to long term

Priority Action 4: To support HOP and raise awareness of the LCEGS career and job opportunities for all, especially for young people and their parents.	Hertfordshire LEP Careers Hub	Short-medium term
3: Building networks and supply chains within the LCEGS sector		
Priority Action 5: To support the on-going growth of Herts IQ, and its Network.	Herts IQ, BRE, Rothamsted Enterprises, UH	Ongoing
Priority Action 6: To grow a broader LCEGS business community (virtual cluster) to stimulate knowledge exchange, collaboration and innovation, through the Herts IQ Network and the Growth Hub.	Herts LEP / Herts Growth Hub and other partners like HIQ and HCCSP	Ongoing commitment
Priority Action 7: To encourage angel investment groups across Hertfordshire to support start-up businesses in LCEGS sectors.	Hertfordshire LEP	Medium term
4: Attracting inward investment in the LCEGS sector		
Priority Action 8: To develop a LCEGS inward investment marketing campaign.	Hertfordshire LEP and Herts IQ supported by Herts Growth Board and Planners	Ongoing

Pillar Two: Improving the environmental performance of businesses, communities and places in Hertfordshire

Priority Action	Lead	Timescale
1: Supporting 'green transitions' across all sectors in Hertfordshire		
<p>Priority Action 1: To deliver a sustained 'Net Zero Low Cost' campaign to signpost businesses to the Growth Hub for green support and advice. This signposting will include information on green funding, environmental accreditation, and operational guidance to support environmental transformation.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP, Hertfordshire Growth Hub and HCC&SP</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>Priority Action 2: To promote BEIS's Energy Technology List (ETL) which identifies 60,000 energy-saving products for businesses and the public sector, and the intention will be to encourage businesses in Hertfordshire to use the ETL as both purchasers and suppliers.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP, Hertfordshire Growth Hub and other business-facing intermediaries</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>Priority Action 3: To develop a value procurement approach for major projects supported by the LEP.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p>Priority Action 4: To compile and deliver a clear and illustrative Net Zero checklist of key best practise actions, and to promote this list to businesses across Hertfordshire.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Growth Hub supported by GSEEH, Low Carbon Workplaces and Energy Savings Trust</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p>Priority Action 5: Carbon focus – To engage with a few high energy using businesses keen to transform for quick business zero carbon wins. The checklists and case studies used for this process and lessons learned will be disseminated widely.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP, GSEEH and/or Low Carbon Workplaces</p>	<p>Medium term</p>

Priority Action	Lead	Timescale
<p>Priority Action 6: To build the capacity and capability of SMEs to report carbon emissions, enabling them to compete with larger companies which record this and use it as a selling tool or a purchasing requirement.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Growth Hub and Business intermediaries supported by LEP</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p>2: Improving access to the skills needed for cleaner growth across Hertfordshire</p>		
<p>Priority Action 7: To ensure that in delivering Hertfordshire's skills and employment strategy, the priorities linked to clean growth (including upskilling) across all parts of the economy are clearly recognised.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP, HCC, DWP</p>	<p>Short to long term</p>
<p>Priority Action 8: To work through supply chains across major development projects (such as Herts IQ and Hemel Garden Communities) to identify opportunities for 'green skills'; and then to connect these with major skills providers (e.g. BRE, CITB, FE Colleges, etc.).</p>	<p>Hertfordshire LEP working with key partners from construction and among skills providers</p>	<p>Short term</p>
<p>3: Developing solutions for green financing</p>		
<p>Priority Action 9: To raise awareness of green financing opportunities that are being developed nationally (e.g. Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF2), the Low Carbon Workspaces grant and the Clean Growth Fund) and ensure businesses/communities in Hertfordshire are sign-posted to them.</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Growth Hub and HCCSP</p>	<p>Short to long term</p>
<p>Priority Action 10: To explore the possibilities of Green Municipal Bonds in Hertfordshire and, on a more targeted basis, across broader geographies.</p>	<p>Growth Board</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p>4: Greening our infrastructure</p>		
<p>Priority Action 11: To encourage development partners to pursue a sustainable built environment including zero-carbon buildings, smart low carbon travel options</p>	<p>Hertfordshire Growth Board</p>	<p>Short to long term</p>

Priority Action	Lead	Timescale
(including EV rollout) and a zero-carbon energy infrastructure for major development projects.		
Priority Action 12: To support the Eastern New Energy Maylands Decarbonisation project and to promote lessons learnt to other industrial areas.	Eastern New Energy and Dacorum Borough Council	Medium term
Priority Action 13: To encourage our existing and new enterprise and innovation spaces throughout the county to promote and support clean growth enterprises; for example through signposting of green funds and green skills provision.	LEP supported by Herts Growth Hub, HCC&SP, and UH plus Growth Board	Ongoing commitment
Priority Action 14: To give consideration to sustainability issues and value procurement in relation to major projects (including those funded by the LEP).	Hertfordshire Growth Board supported by LEP	Short to long term
5: Encouraging sustainable transport solutions		
Priority Action 15: To continue to promote and support innovative and sustainable transport solutions in Hertfordshire.	Hertfordshire Growth Board, HCC and others	Long term
6: Enhancing our natural capital		
Priority Action 16: To deliver the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and work towards a natural capital approach.	Hertfordshire Growth Board, HCC and others	Long term

