KADA

Social Value Impact Assessment of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

A Social Value Report
for Suffolk County Council
September 2024

Images courtesy of Suffolk County Council

Contents

Executive summary

Kada Research was commissioned by Suffolk County Council, on behalf of Suffolk's public sector organisations, to assess the social value impact of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (SCEP). The study assesses a mix of tangible and intangible social, health and environmental benefits.

In 2019, Suffolk's Borough, District and County Councils acknowledged or declared a 'Climate Emergency'[1], recognising the enabling role they had to play in supporting businesses, communities and residents to work towards a net zero Suffolk. This led to the creation of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (SCEP) in April 2021, and commitment from Suffolk's Public Sector Organisations to work together in delivering its aims.

This report presents the emerging social value benefits that delivery of the SCEP brings to Suffolk. The social value impacts look at a wide set of benefits to communities and business, including some benefits of carbon dioxide emissions savings. However, it is important to note that the full environmental and economic benefits of reducing carbon dioxide emissions are not captured in the social value impact assessment.

About the SCEP

The plan sets out the ambitions to work towards Suffolk becoming a net zero county. The SCEP was revised in 2023 to provide more focused actions which have a greater emphasis on behaviour change and the co-benefits of climate change action, particularly social and health benefits.

The actions in the SCEP have been developed and refined to maximise deliverability and impact. There are 48 actions in the SCEP under five themes, each with their own set of goals:

Theme	Goals
Collaborative Action	• Increased climate awareness and action, and of the co-benefits of taking climate action for other sectors, including health. • Leveraging and financing local climate action. • Fostering further stakeholder collaboration. • Monitoring and communication of progress.
Sustainable Homes	• Improved energy efficiency of homes.
Low Carbon Transport	• Increased sustainable transport readiness. • More efficient freight. • Reduced demand for car use. • Transition to a zero-emission fleet

[1] Suffolk County Council, 2019, Meeting Agenda Thursday 21 March 2019

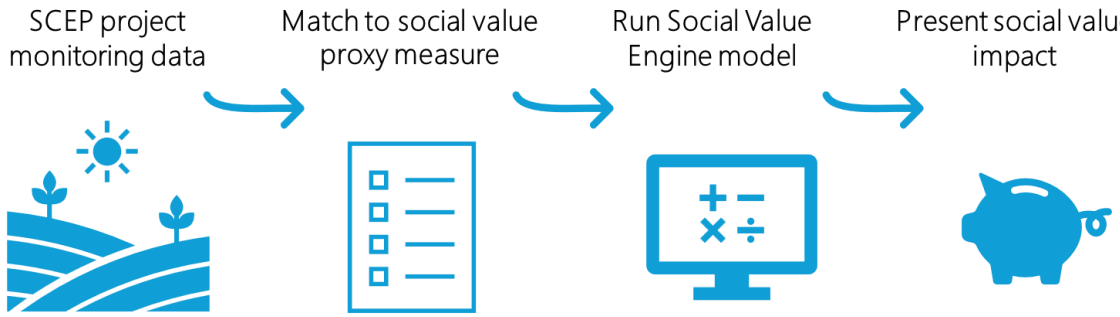
Industrial and commercial energy use	• Carbon literacy and active carbon management. • Decarbonisation in the industrial and commercial sector. • Decarbonisation in the public sector.
Cleaner Power	• Grow Suffolk's low carbon energy production capacity. • Support the development of a smart and flexible grid. • Develop Suffolk's low carbon economy. • Public sector leads the way with renewable energy production

Social value impacts

Social Value UK defines social value measurement as a way to "understand and record the relative importance people place on the wellbeing changes they experience"[2].

This report presents the social value impact which elements of the SCEP activity have generated to date, with chapters focussed on each of the five SCEP intervention themes, and the wider projects that run alongside the programme.

To monetise the social impacts delivered by the SCEP, the assessment incorporates Social Return on Investment (SROI) principles to quantify wider health, wellbeing and environmental benefits that may have taken place through SCEP interventions. We used the Social Value Engine (SVE) tool, which provides calculated financial proxies for a range of outcomes such as improved health or community cohesion derived from a range of evidence bases. The SVE is an online tool accredited by Social Value UK.



Financial proxies in the SVE were mapped against key outputs and outcomes of the SCEP projects. The outputs and outcomes which were both relevant in terms of social value and had data available have been used. Therefore, the social value impact assessment is based on a subset of SCEP activity, which will also be generating a wider range of environmental and economic benefits.

There has been lots of activity delivered as part of the plan with progress being made against goals and targets, and the data captured to track progress show this. However, it is important to note that this report only uses a selection of the progress measures in the social value impact analysis, so we would

[2] Social Value UK, What is Social Value and Why does it Matter? Accessed here.

expect benefits to be even greater. A toolkit is being developed so that in future we can include more of the activities and projects which have been delivered.

Fighting climate change with effective stewardship of the environment through activity by local people, communities and the public sector organisations in Suffolk will have extensive and long-lasting benefits beyond what can be measured so far.

Key headlines from the social value assessment of the five SCEP themes are as follows.

Collaborative Action

- Collaborative Action aims to: increase climate awareness and action; leverage and finance local climate action; foster further stakeholder collaboration; monitor and communicate progress.
- The interventions delivered under the Collaborative Action theme have facilitated stronger community engagement through its community-based initiatives through targeting the community network database and via community energy projects delivered (Community Energy Groups). It has also enhanced partnership arrangements through the SCEP's active engagement with stakeholders and hosting conference events with public sector organisations and schools.
- **£2.4m** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by Collaborative Action projects delivered so far. Applying this over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £9.6m.
- Encouraging 'Collaborative Action' through increased local partnerships and projects, via more targeted funding promotes a call to action in response to the climate emergency, and aims to instil behavioural change within residents, businesses and organisations across Suffolk.

Sustainable Homes

- Sustainable Homes aims to: improve the energy efficiency of homes.
- Social value impact arises from the benefits to households of improving their home's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Schemes which support energy efficiency housing improvements have the potential to generate a wide range of benefits including: reducing household energy bills, reduced health issues associated with damp conditions and increased property values.
- **£48.5m** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by Sustainable Homes projects delivered so far. For the Sustainable Homes theme, we have only presented the 1-year social value impact and not forecast the 10-year net present value as these impacts are based on domestic energy prices.
- Through increased partnership working and **increased** investment in upskilling in retrofit construction across Suffolk, a more energy efficient housing stock will be delivered.

Low Carbon Transport

- Low Carbon Transport aims to: increase sustainable transport readiness; enable more efficient freight; reduce demand for car use; support the transition to a zero-emission fleet of vehicles.
- The interventions delivered under the Low Carbon Transport theme have promoted and facilitated lower transport emissions through engagement campaigns and improvements to

transport infrastructure. It has also enhanced partnership arrangements through the SCEP's active engagement with stakeholders.

- **£267,000** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by Low Carbon Transport activities delivered so far. Applying this over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £1.05m.
- Greater access to sustainable mobility options will increase the number of people who choose to travel in a more environmentally friendly way. By reducing some of the financial barriers, these modes of transport will be available to a wider proportion of the county.

Industrial and Commercial Energy Use

- Industrial and Commercial Energy Use aims to: improve carbon literacy and active carbon management; decarbonise the industrial, commercial and public sectors.
- The interventions delivered under the Industrial and Commercial Energy Use Theme have supported businesses to take decarbonisation measure to tackle the emissions from their energy use. The theme has also provided guidance on how best to achieve this. The public sector in Suffolk is also setting an example of successful ways to work towards net zero.
- **£879,000** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by Industrial and Commercial Energy Use activities delivered so far. Applying this over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £3.5m.
- Increasing carbon literacy across Suffolk will equip individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the impact of carbon emissions.
- Raising awareness of the climate emergency in the workplace equips Suffolk's companies to be more resilient to fluctuating energy markets, and to maximise the growth potential from the green pound and low carbon sectors.

Cleaner Power

- Cleaner Power aims to: develop Suffolk's low carbon energy production capacity; support the development of a smart and flexible grid; develop Suffolk's low carbon economy; support the public sector to lead the way in renewable energy production.
- The interventions delivered under the Cleaner Power theme have promoted the use of renewable energy. This has included the promotion of community energy initiatives, and greater engagement with UK Power Networks. Businesses have also been supported to find more sustainable ways to power their operations. The public sector has led the way in transitioning civic buildings to renewable energy sources. The councils have also supported this work by developing policy to further promote these actions.
- **£169,000** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by Cleaner Power activities delivered so far. Applying this over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £663,000.
- The advancement of Low Carbon Heat Networks, which can lower prices for users, will contribute to the alleviation of fuel poverty. This is further supported by collaborative energy planning projects which can make the grid more flexible.
- Communities and businesses have been empowered to take action, which has led to the creation of community-led energy decarbonisation projects. Clear leadership by the SPSL in delivery of the SCEP has expedited this development.

Wider Projects

Other projects have been running in conjunction with the SCEP, these include: Solar Together Suffolk, Warm Homes Suffolk, the Carbon Charter and the Community Thermal Imaging Project.

- Solar Together Suffolk has installed solar photovoltaic panels on 2,384 homes, and has added battery storage systems to 647, drawing in householder investment of over £17.5 million. The evidence suggests that over **£59,000** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by activities under Solar Together Suffolk. Over the next 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity will be £232,000.
- Warm Homes Suffolk has utilised £18 million to improve the energy efficiency of over 1,300 homes, resulting in carbon savings of 1,760 tonnes[3] tCO_2e. The evidence suggests that **£1.4m** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by activities under Warm Homes Suffolk. For the Warm Homes project, we have only presented the 1-year social value impact and not forecast the 10-year net present value as these impacts are based on domestic energy prices.
- Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity will be £5.5m.
- Carbon Charter is a business accreditation scheme which enables businesses to highlight their progression towards net zero emissions. Over 520 businesses have been accredited through the scheme, with 165 currently active members. The social value generated by this scheme will result from the improvements businesses make to reach higher levels of accreditation.
- Community Thermal Imaging Project provided community groups with thermal imaging cameras to conduct heat-loss surveys of buildings, as heat-loss can highlight areas which need insulation to become energy efficient. The evidence suggests that **£378,000** of **measurable social value impact** has been generated by activities under the Community Thermal Imaging Project. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £1.5m.

[3] All carbon savings in this report refer to tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e). It should be noted that the value of carbon used in this report is from the Social Value Engine and differs from estimates/values recommended in the Green Book and other similar guidance. As this report presents a social value assessment, we have utilised all proxy values from the Social Value Engine.

1 The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan is backed by Suffolk's public sector leaders. It sets out a strategic ambition to work towards becoming net zero and integrating climate action into the daily lives of people living, working and visiting Suffolk.

1.1 Background to the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan

In 2019, Suffolk's Borough, District and County Councils acknowledged or declared a 'Climate Emergency'[4], recognising the enabling role they had to play in supporting businesses, communities and residents to work towards a net zero Suffolk. This led to the creation of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (SCEP) in April 2021, and commitment from Suffolk's public sector organisations to work together in delivering its aims. The SCEP was revised in 2023 to provide more focused actions which have a greater emphasis on behaviour change and the co-benefits of climate change action, particularly social and health benefits. Also in 2023, a progress report was produced demonstrating the progresses and successes to date, which can be seen here.

This Social Value impact report shows the emerging social value benefits the SCEP brings to Suffolk's businesses and citizens, as well as the environment. As the SCEP states:

"Transitioning to a net zero Suffolk brings with it a wide range of consequential benefits. Better air quality and active travel can lead to physical health improvements, an increasingly engaged and collaborative community can benefit from improvements in mental health, and improving the energy efficiency of buildings can reduce energy bills for households and businesses alike. Putting Suffolk at the forefront of the transition to net zero prepares the county's residents, communities, and organisations to seize future opportunities.

A system-wide approach can deliver benefits through partnership working, collaboration and efficiency, ensuring we tackle the challenges of the climate emergency and improve the wider determinants of health. By reducing carbon emissions, we can reduce NHS admissions."

Through the application of the SCEP, Suffolk's ambition is to be putting in measures and making progress towards net zero by 2030. Partners involved in the SCEP recognise the broad range of co-benefits that can be delivered through climate change including:

- Warmer homes that are more affordable to heat
- Improved energy security
- Improved air quality and health
- Reduced inequality
- Connecting with nature and biodiversity
- Reduced risk of local flooding and of extreme heat
- Stronger communities

[4] Suffolk County Council, 2019, Meeting Agenda Thursday 21 March 2019

- Job creation.

The emphasis on the co-benefits of a greener county created through the delivery of the SCEP actions are not to be forgotten. As outlined in the SCEP, the journey to net zero should not just acclaim carbon reduction as an outcome, when the financial, health, economic and social benefits are so significant.

1.2 SCEP activity

The actions in the SCEP have been developed and refined to maximise deliverability and impact. There are 48 actions in the SCEP under five themes, each with their own set of goals:

Theme	Goals
Collaborative Action	• Increased climate awareness and action, and of the co-benefits of taking climate action for other sectors, including health. • Leveraging and financing local climate action. • Fostering further stakeholder collaboration. • Monitoring and communication of progress.
Sustainable Homes	• Improved energy efficiency of homes.
Low Carbon Transport	• Increased sustainable transport readiness. • More efficient freight. • Reduced demand for car use. • Transition to a zero-emission fleet
Industrial and commercial energy use	• Carbon literacy and active carbon management. • Decarbonisation in the industrial and commercial sector. • Decarbonisation in the public sector.
Cleaner Power	• Grow Suffolk's low carbon energy production capacity. • Support the development of a smart and flexible grid. • Develop Suffolk's low carbon economy. • Public sector leads the way with renewable energy production

2 Introducing Social Value

This study uses the Social Value Engine to undertake an initial Social Value Impact Assessment of a selection of the suite of SCEP activities delivered so far.

Social Value UK defines social value measurement as a way to "understand and record the relative importance people place on the wellbeing changes they experience"[5]. These changes are important but are not commonly expressed or measured in the same way as financial value.

2.1 This report

This report presents the social value impact which elements of the SCEP activity has generated to date. It is important to note that this report models the social value of activity delivered to date and only where SCEP activity has collected concrete output data that are relevant to the social value outcomes. Because not all activity has been valued due to insufficient data to measure it as this stage, the impact figures reported have been referred to as 'measurable social value impact'. Further social value assessment could be undertaken as more output data is collected from projects and activities.

The report structure is presented below, with a chapter focussed on each of the five SCEP intervention themes, and the wider projects that run alongside the programme:

- **Chapter 2: Collaborative Action** –which is driving change by leveraging funding, and by enabling stronger cooperation between communities and organisations.
- **Chapter 3: Sustainable Homes** – supports homes to become more energy efficient.
- **Chapter 4: Low Carbon Transport** – promotes more environmentally friendly transport methods.
- **Chapter 5: Industrial and Commercial Energy Use** – supports the private and public sector to reduce the carbon emissions from their energy use.
- **Chapter 6: Cleaner Power** – will decarbonise the county's energy networks.
- **Chapter 7: Wider Projects** – support the other themes and have been running alongside their work.

The report also captures the social value impact of SPSL funded projects where output data is available. Social value has been modelled on the activity listed below:

- The Suffolk Climate Emergency Crowdfunder under Collaborative Action
- VCS organisations audit service under Collaborative Action
- The Net Zero Knowledge Hub under Industrial and Commercial Energy Use
- The Specialist Business Support Service under Industrial and Commercial Energy Use.

A short Technical Annexe Report accompanies this report and includes detail on the methodology taken to assess the social value of the SCEP. Alongside this is a social value impact Monitoring Framework tool which will support ongoing data collection and social value impact assessment.

[5] Social Value UK, What is Social Value and Why does it Matter? Accessed here.

2.2 Our approach

The SCEP social value assessment used documents and data provided by each of the SCEP theme leads. A logic model and monitoring & impact framework was developed to map out which SCEP outputs and outcomes could be used to assess the social value impact, using the Social Value Engine tool. The assessment focuses on the impact of SCEP activity on the lives of people organisations and wider communities in which the SCEP interacts with.

To monetise the social impacts delivered by the SCEP, the assessment incorporates Social Return on Investment (SROI) principles to quantify wider health, wellbeing and environmental benefits that may have taken place through SCEP interventions. We used the Social Value Engine (SVE) tool, which provides financial proxies for a range of outcomes such as improved health or community cohesion derived from a range of evidence bases. The SVE is an online tool accredited by Social Value UK.

Financial proxies in the SVE were mapped against key outputs and outcomes of the SCEP projects. The outputs and outcomes which were both relevant in terms of social value and had data available have been used. Therefore, the social value impact assessment is based on a subset of SCEP activity, which will also be generating a wider range of environmental and economic benefits.

This assessment reports monetised values that equate to an amount of social value generated, expressed in terms which makes social value comparable to economic appraisals. However, it is important to consider what these values signify and what the proxies used contain and refer to.

The monetary values reported do not directly reflect observed or recorded financial uplifts or cost savings made for the residents or organisations of Suffolk. The social value impacts are based on researched and peer-reviewed proxy values some of which reflect average financial benefits we could expect to see for residents, and some of which use inferred costs and benefits observed from other research.

The social value impacts modelled can be categorised three ways.

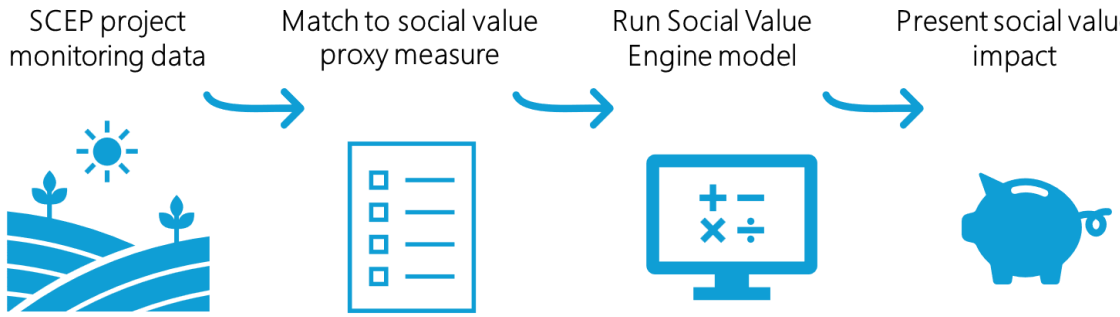
1. *Intangible*. For some SCEP activity, the proxies applied are economic values used by central Government. For example, the cost per tonne of carbon which has been used to quantify a reduced carbon footprint. These economic values are somewhat intangible but are used to help compare the impact of environmental projects to other development projects where economic impacts are more easily modelled (via the Green Book and other guidance).

2. *Representative*. For more people-based SCEP activity, the social and wider impacts of activity have been modelled using proxies that are based on research collated over time. For example, we have used the proxy 'value of being a member of a social group' to estimate social value of participation in community events. These types of values are based on observations from elsewhere. Some proxies are based on goods and services that do have a price, and these can be to assign a value to an activity. For example, research on the average amount people pay to use a community facility provides an indication of how much they value such places. This technique is known as revealed preference. Research over the years has used surveys to ask people how much they would value outcomes where there is no price associated with the delivery of these outcomes. Known as the stated preference or contingent value approach researchers focus on establishing the monetary value of such outcomes by asking how much people would be willing to pay for such changes (willingness to pay). The best-fitting proxy values are applied to SCEP outputs to model impacts on the people and communities of Suffolk.

3. *Tangible*. For other SCEP activity, more tangible proxy values are used. For example, there are national estimates for average financial savings from improving EPC ratings which is used as a proxy for the savings from installing energy efficiency measures. Applying this proxy to the households benefitting from the SCEP provides an indicative value of what average households may save. We know that these social impact values are based on real average financial savings and are feasibly quantifiable; however, they are averages and more bespoke local data collection would be needed to estimate the actual benefits to people in Suffolk.

In summary, the social value figures modelled and presented in this report are a mix of the categories described above. Social value impacts are a composite economic measure which describe a return on investment for society at large, rather than highlighting the money the public may feel in their pockets; this should be considered when understanding the social value figures generated in this report.

Social value over time is calculated to create a Net Present Value (NPV). NPV provides a way of considering the present value of benefits that arise from the SCEP activity from now into the future taking into account factors like inflation. For this study, benefits have been modelled over a 10-year time-period, with the total benefits over the ten years reported. For simplicity, the NPV figures presented in this report as referred to as the 'long-term social value impact' throughout.



The following process was undertaken for the selection of SCEP outputs and outcomes used to assess social value impact:

- We identified SVE proxies which can appropriately (or as appropriately as possible) quantify the impact of actions which have quantifiable progress against (e.g., output data).
- We matched activity output data to the SVE against the appropriate proxy.
- We applied a set of discount factors in keeping with government guidance[6].
    - Deadweight refers to what would have happened anyway, and how much of the outcome might have been achieved without the interventions in the SCEP. This has been assumed at 25%.
    - Leakage refers to how much of the outcome might have delivered an impact outside the area intended (target geography). This was assumed at 0%, as SCEP activity will occur and benefit the Suffolk area only.
    - Drop off refers to the proportion of the outcome that will diminish over time. This was assumed at 20%.

[6] Following HM Treasury Green Book appraisal guidance. The discount factors were applied consistently across all themes.

    - Displacement refers to the extent to which the benefits of the SCEP result in reduced benefits elsewhere in the target geography. This was assumed at 0% as SCEP activity will occur and benefit the Suffolk area only.
- We identified an appropriate assessment period for modelling the social value impact. Impact has been modelled over a 10-year period, discounting by 3.5% over time.

It is important to note that for some SCEP actions there has been significant activity delivered and progress made which has not been included in the social value impact analysis. This is due to the nature of data collected so far not being suitable to using to assess social value impacts, meaning in some instances the impacts have been described qualitatively. This does not indicate that there has been a lack of progress, and accompanying this report is a toolkit for collecting data to better support social impact analysis in the future.

Fighting climate change with effective stewardship of the environment through activity by local people, communities and the public sector organisations in Suffolk will have extensive and long-lasting impact beyond what can be measured so far.

2.3 Co-benefits

In addition to the social value being delivered as a result of SCEP activities (as quantified through the output and outcome data collected), there are a range of co-benefits created by the actions that must be recognised.

The SCEP co-benefits were informed by Ashden's vision of 'better lives through climate action'[7]. Ashden states that councils and public bodies can deliver better transport, health and economic outcomes through the actions they take to address the climate emergency. Key principles suggested by Ashden that were considered when developing the SCEP were:

- **Urgent action is necessary** – catastrophic climate change cannot be avoided without hasty action.
- **People need to be motivated** - radical steps can't be taken without serious public support. It is important to recognise that many day-to-day problems are tackled by climate action, such as improving insulation in old homes and helping people stay healthy through cycling and walking.
- **Community involvement is key** – working with people leading climate action in their own communities ensures best efforts are guided by the people they set out to help.
- **Finance is a major barrier** –If solutions have proven effects beyond tackling global warming, they can be supported by a wider range of funding sources.
- **Activists together** – everyone must have a willingness to try new things and work together in order to tackle the climate emergency.

[7] Ashden, *Our co-benefits vision: better lives through climate action*. Accessed here.

According to a detailed technical report[8] produced by Ricardo Energy & Environment in support of the plan, there are a number of notable co-benefits.

"From a health perspective, a reduction in the burning of fossil fuels across Suffolk will lead to benefits. These will come not only from the improved air as mentioned above, but also from a number of the outcomes and actions that advocate for increasing active travel, and community engagement. Increases in active travel will lead to physical and mental health benefits, notably from the increases in exercise such as walking and cycling, which increase an individual's activity levels. Increased individual engagement and participation in their community can have mental health benefits too, from an increase in feelings of connection, purposefulness, and collaboration.

From the perspective of ensuring a just transition, numerous outcomes and actions can be implemented to contribute towards inclusive growth and reduction in fuel poverty. Examples include maintaining and expanding existing energy hubs to provide information and support to access funding for energy efficiency outcomes and low carbon heating, as well as the district councils prioritising improving the insultation and energy efficiency of council housing.

Regarding the co-benefits for skilled jobs in Suffolk, the Government has recognised the importance of skill development across its population in order to implement the transition to a net-zero economy during the 2020s, 30s, and 40s. As outlined by the Committee on Climate Change, new skills to support for designers, builders and installers is urgently needed for low-carbon heating (especially heat pumps), energy and water efficiency, ventilation and thermal comfort, and property level flood resilience. Whilst this will present a challenge, it should be seen as an opportunity to both petition the Government to ensure that those in transitioning industries are given the support to upskill (e.g. through the Skills Advisory Panels), as well as position Suffolk at the front of the net-zero transition."

Twelve co-benefits were identified for each of the 5 themes in SCEP during a benefits mapping exercise. All partners are committed to the realisation of these holistic co-benefits. The co-benefits across the themes are shown below.

Co-benefits	Theme				
	Collaborative Action	Sustainable Homes	Low Carbon Transport	Industry & Commercial Energy Use	Cleaner Power
Access to funding within communities	✓				
Improved health and wellbeing	✓	✓	✓		✓
Improved air quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greater biodiversity	✓				
Green job creation (low carbon activities)		✓			

[8] Suffolk Evidence Report - Green Suffolk, 8.4 Additional co-benefits, p 109.

Community resilience and cohesion	✓		✓		
Increase in active travel			✓		
Comfortable homes		✓			
Financial savings		✓	✓	✓	
New markets/growth and inward investment		✓	✓	✓	
Reduced fuel poverty and energy security		✓			✓
Greater social acceptance of projects	✓				✓

THEME	MEASURABLE SOCIAL VALUE IMPACT	BREAKDOWN
Collaborative Action	**£2.4m**	**People attending conferences and community network events and community projects** **306** adults and **342** young people engaged in climate conference events **46** community projects Creating a social value of **£1.0m** to participants Enabling community activity with equivalent value of **£1.4m**
Sustainable Homes	**£48.5m**	**Installation of energy saving measures** **48,040** homes taking up insulation and low carbon energy measures Equivalent to **£48.5m** in EPC improvements for residents
Low Carbon Transport	**£267,000**	**Public using alternative methods of travel and business partnerships established at the Freeport** **2,567** people using alternative methods of travel **13** partnerships established between local firms and the Freeport Reduced carbon footprint with equivalent of **£177,000** offset CO2 costs for travel miles Equivalent to a social value of **£90,000** through more efficient collaboration
Industrial and Commercial Energy Use	**£879,000**	**Business support and carbon savings** **949** businesses supported and accessing advice services **1,100 tCO2(e)** in carbon emissions saved Generating the equivalent of **£862,000** in social value from work and upskilling through training. Equivalent of **£17,000** through carbon savings.
Cleaner Power	**£169,000**	**Businesses supported to innovate and invest, and improvements on civic buildings** **18** businesses accessing innovative approaches **12** businesses accessing support and skills investment Equivalent of **£89,000** generated through encouragement of business innovation. Equivalent of **£79,000** generated through encouragement of investment in skills.

3 Collaborative Action

The Collaborative Action theme is designed to maximise low carbon energy opportunities through leveraging public and private sector investment, and drive behavioural change by engaging with people, organisations and communities in Suffolk.

This theme recognises that no single cause is the problem, and no individual can be the solution. By facilitating increased communication across the county there will be more effective solutions. This may come in the form of leveraged finance or by creating opportunities for new connections between stakeholders. To achieve this there will be a need to work with local experts and companies, and by ensuring the economic wealth from the sector is kept within Suffolk. Government intervention may also be needed, but local communities will still need to have a say in what affects them.

The four goals for this theme are:

1. **Increased climate awareness and action, and of the co-benefits of taking climate action for other sectors, including health.**
2. **Leveraging and financing local climate action.**
3. **Fostering further stakeholder collaboration.**
4. **Monitoring and communication of progress.**

3.1 Social value summary

The interventions delivered under the Collaborative Action theme have facilitated stronger community engagement through its community-based initiatives through targeting the community network database and via community energy projects delivered (Community Energy Groups). It has also enhanced partnership arrangements through the SCEP's active engagement with stakeholders and by the hosting of information drop in events, conferences and webinars for communities, schools and other organisations.

Social value is created by the benefits of increased climate awareness and action as well as working collaboratively and through partnerships to more efficiently deliver community projects.

- £2,449,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Collaborative Action theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £9,630,000.
- Encouraging 'Collaborative Action' through increased local partnerships and projects, via more targeted funding promotes a call to action in response to the climate emergency, and aims to instil behavioural change within residents, businesses and organisations across Suffolk.

Social value here is to individuals and groups who gain the wellbeing benefits of participating in community activities, without needing to pay for it. Research suggests on average people save £2,122 by being able to access community activities compared to paying for activities.

3.2 Collaborative Action logic model

The logic model demonstrates how the theme activities and outputs are expected to facilitate key outcomes and wider impacts that will be tested in the social value assessment. It visualises the steps involved in how the Collaborative Action theme can generate added value.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider Impacts
1	Deliver a mass public education campaign	Number of Suffolk residents exposed to multi-media campaigns every year	Increased motivation and capability to take pro-environmental actions.	Increased climate awareness and action, and of the co-benefits of taking climate action for other sectors, including health.
2	Create a climate change information hub for the public (detailing pro-environmental choices, initiatives, current schemes, scientific evidence, funding/support available, etc.)	Number of Suffolk residents/visitors/businesses accessing digital links to local information and support for pro-environmental behaviours.	Public more knowledgeable about the actions they can take to become more sustainable	
3	Develop an ongoing programme of collaboration opportunities for, and with, young people	Number of children and young people engaging in pro-environmental behaviours.	Increased numbers of children and young people who are empowered and supported to facilitate change and encourage others to do so.	
4	Engage with Suffolk residents at a community/neighbourhood level to allow co-creativity of climate solutions.	Number of communities and neighbourhoods delivering pro-environmental projects.	Increased numbers of communities and neighbourhoods cooperatively owning the solutions to the climate crisis.	
5	Increase funding available	Number of communities and neighbourhoods delivering pro-environmental projects.	Increased in pro-environmental projects delivered by communities and neighbourhoods	Leveraging and financing local climate action.
6	Help local groups to deliver community energy projects	Numbers of community energy projects delivered.	Increased support for community energy projects from concept to construction & operation.	
7	Investigate and establish a council-backed carbon offsetting scheme.	Number of council-backed carbon offsetting schemes delivered	Council funds channelled into high-quality, certified mitigation projects.	
8	Collaboration of Suffolk partners to ensure leverage of funding for SCEP delivery.	Sources of income and funding identified as optimum funding and financial option.	Successful delivery of actions within the SCEP.	
9	Support and encourage other organisations to include low carbon targets in their own policies, strategies, and plans.	Number of organisations with carbon reduction plans and strategies	Increased engagement in pro-environmental behaviours, and encouragement these in others.	Fostering further stakeholder collaboration.
10	Develop a suite of reporting mechanisms suitable to the data, and the target audience.	Delivery of a framework to monitor Suffolk's progress towards net zero.	Communication of progress of the SCEP to target audiences, ensuring transparency and motivating others to act.	Monitoring and communication of progress.

3.3 What have we achieved so far?

The following table captures the progress achieved against each activity and respective outputs. The table demonstrates how well the activities have performed to date and forms the basis for estimating overall social value generated.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Progress to date	Data applicable for social value analysis
1	Deliver a mass public education campaign	Number of Suffolk residents exposed to multi-media campaigns every year	A strategy has been developed and launched. Social media reach has tripled. Climate Action survey has now closed, and a report is being produced which summarises current climate activity across Suffolk. Workshop being held to explore findings and discuss target behaviour for 2025 campaign.	
2	Create a climate change information hub for the public (detailing pro-environmental choices, initiatives, current schemes, scientific evidence, funding/support available, etc.)	Number of Suffolk residents/visitors/businesses accessing digital links to local information and support for pro-environmental behaviours.	Green Suffolk website is now well established and is being accessed by 1,000 visitors a month. Reach of the site will continue to grow.	
3	Develop an ongoing programme of collaboration opportunities for, and with, young people	Number of children and young people engaging in pro-environmental behaviours.	A youth climate conference was held in July 23 with 82 pupils attending from 9 schools. 260 students & 44 teachers from 21 schools, 98 adults from 37 organisations attended 2nd Youth Climate Conference on 3 July 24. 14 schools have already signed up for YCC25. Schools Suffolk Sustainable Schools Lead started role in July 24. 21 schools signed up to join Suffolks Schools Sustainability Network. This is to support teachers in delivering sustainability across the curriculum and to support schools with decarbonisation plans. First quarterly network meeting held. Conference on Sustainability in Education to be held in March 25. 17 leads passed to Groundworks for energy audits and looking to engage EnergySparks to deliver Carbon Literacy training.	342[9] pupils attending conferences 142[10] teachers / adults attending conferences

[9] 82 pupils at the first conference, 260 pupils at the second.
[10] 44 teachers and 98 adults attending the second conference.

4	Engage with Suffolk residents at a community/neighbourhood level to allow co-creativity of climate solutions.	Number of communities and neighbourhoods delivering pro-environmental projects.	194 communities in the network data base. 240 members of the Community Network Facebook Group. Two Community Networking Events held in November 2023 with 164 attendees including community groups, parishes and councillors.	164 attendees[11]
5	Increase funding available (including the Suffolk Climate Emergency Crowdfunder activity)	Number of communities and neighbourhoods delivering pro-environmental projects.	In Round 1, 23 community groups have been supported across Suffolk through match funding. In Round 2, has allocated match funding to 18 community projects at present. Community groups have been funded for outreach work including the installation of a community hub, an eco-cabin, running training and workshops on climate change and sustainability, and a 'Bike Train'. The SCCP Community Support Officer has worked with approx. 30 communities offering funding support, advice and signposting to specialist services.	41 community projects
6	Help local groups to deliver community energy projects	Numbers of community energy projects delivered.	5 Community Energy Groups made up of 23 villages working on Community Energy South Pathways Project. Community Energy Forum is in place and meets monthly. Energy Champion Training is being undertaken. Community Energy South were successful with a National Lottery bid which will fund a full FTE for 2 years in on Pathways group.	5 Community Energy Projects
7	Investigate and establish a council-backed carbon offsetting scheme.	Number of council-backed carbon offsetting schemes delivered	Discussions ongoing with external partners including Anthesis and Norfolk County Council to establish the scheme.	
8	Collaboration of Suffolk partners to ensure leverage of funding for SCEP delivery.	Sources of income and funding identified as optimum funding and financial option.	£28mn+ (breakdown in Section 3.6)	
9	Support and encourage other organisations to include low carbon targets in their own policies, strategies, and plans (including VCS organisations audit service).	Number of organisations with carbon reduction plans and strategies	Project is in the process of being set up by an intern at East Suffolk Council. In terms of the VCS audit service, 20 audits have been completed with a cumulative total identified annual savings of 192tCO_2(e).	192tCO_2(e)

[11] Collaborative Action has engaged with more communities and individuals, but these have not been collected directly against this action, therefore the 164 has been used to measure social value in this instance.

10	Develop a suite of reporting mechanisms suitable to the data, and the target audience.	Delivery of a framework to monitor Suffolk's progress towards net zero.	Reporting is ongoing for internal stakeholders; monthly and quarterly updates continue to be sent to SCCEEB and corresponding quarterly updates to EPHG. All collated in the Suffolk Climate Emergency Dashboard which can be found here.	

3.4 Quantifiable Social Value under 'Collaborative Action'

After collation of data collected against actions under the 'Collaborative Action' theme, key outputs include:

- 648 people attending conferences and community network events (342 pupils, 142 adults/teachers in attendance at two Youth Climate Conference and 164 attendees at the Community Networking Events).
- 46 community projects (41 community projects and 5 community energy projects).
- 192tCO_2(e) via VCS audit services.

3.5 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under the Collaborative Action theme have facilitated stronger community engagement through its community-based initiatives through targeting the community network database and via community energy projects delivered (Community Energy Groups). It has also enhanced partnership arrangements through the SCEP's active engagement with stakeholders and hosting conference events with public sector organisations and schools.

Social value is created by the benefits of increased climate awareness and action as well as working collaboratively and through partnerships to more efficiently deliver community projects.

The evidence suggests that £2,449,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Collaborative Action theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £9,630,000.

Outcome	Social Value Impact
People attending conferences and community network events	£1,031,000
Community projects	£1,415,000
Carbon savings via VCS audit services	£3,000
Total (1 year)	£2,449,000
10-years	£9,630,000

3.6 Wider impacts and co-benefits

In addition to the social value impacts, there will be a variety of co-benefits which can be attributed to the actions of the Collaborative Action theme. The co-benefits themselves are interrelated – for example, improved air quality also contributes to improved health. Co-benefits identified for this theme are:

- Access to funding within communities that will be improved by a greater supply of grants available. This will enable a greater number of Suffolk communities to implement decarbonisation measures and work together to take action.
- Improved health and wellbeing, achieved through living in a better-quality environment.
- Improved air quality, as fewer pollutants are emitted into the local atmosphere which will be felt most acutely in urban areas.

- **Greater biodiversity** which will be supported to grow as environmental pressures reduce. Greater biodiversity will further improve the natural environment, improving air quality and health and wellbeing benefits even further.
- **Community resilience and cohesion** which is being established and developed through the various projects encouraging collaboration.
- **Greater social acceptance of projects** which is essential in ensuring projects can be implemented with full support and will have a continued legacy after the initial activity.

This section outlines wider benefits which have emerged through the evidence. These are intangible benefits, drawing on largely qualitative data to supplement the findings in 3.6.

Highlights include:

 Over **45,000** members of the public have engaged with the Suffolk Information Hub website.	 **£29 million** of funding has been unlocked to support energy efficiency and low carbon initiatives.

Impacts include:

Impact	Relevant evidence
Public learning	In setting up a climate change information hub including pro-environmental choices, initiatives, current schemes, scientific evidence and funding/support available, residents of Suffolk will have increased awareness of the severity of the climate crisis. The website is getting traction with over 45,000 views on all Suffolk pages. Social media channels are also gaining momentum, with monthly access figures outlined: 1,178 via Facebook, 2,087 on X and 1,557 on Instagram. Increased engagement of the public will, in the long term, increase pro-environmental activity of Suffolk communities. Climate action initiatives such as the Suffolk information hub build environmental literacy around environmental stewardship and sustainability and empower communities and residents to make informed decisions.
Leveraging investment	SCEP actions under Collaborative Action look to make funding available to help community groups successfully deliver pro-environmental projects and identify sources of income and funding to ensure successful delivery of actions (detail in the table below).

Amount (£m)	**Funding Source**
£1.50	Social prescribing funding awarded to support active travel and improve physical and mental wellbeing of Suffolk residents
£7.25	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund to support Suffolk charge point network improvements

	£7.80	Supporting Active Travel in key locations across the county
	£3.00	DLUHC funding to extend the 0% loan service for resident wishing to upgrade the energy efficiency of their properties (out to procurement for a provider).
	Through leverage and provision of financial support, organisations and communities delivering SCEP activities have access to funding to ensure sustainability of the impact. Access to the Suffolk Climate Action Community Match Funder, designed to assist charities, community interest companies, parish council, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations who wish to deliver carbon reduction projects, provides a means of facilitating successful delivery of tangible projects within the community, ensuring longevity of the actions and impacts of the SCEP. Additionally, development of data monitoring tools and a suite of reporting mechanisms to collect data on progress towards a net zero Suffolk, will allow for increased communication of impact to residents and other target audiences, and will, in turn, motivate others to take action.	
Greener communities and health	There has been work to deliver a council-backed carbon offsetting scheme in order to channel funds into high-quality, certified mitigation projects in Suffolk. A number of exploratory conversations have been undertaken to set up this scheme, however due to lack of internal capacity, it has not been progressed further. Delivery of this scheme has the potential to deliver social value in a number of areas, for example, increased environmental improvement and resilience through improved air quality and enhanced green spaces. Better air quality will benefit public health, particularly for those more vulnerable. Enhanced green spaces increases urban biodiversity, improves mental wellbeing and also provides recreational areas for local communities.	

4 Sustainable Homes

The Sustainable Homes theme is designed to ensure the homes of Suffolk residents are energy efficient.

The Sustainable Homes theme aims to reduce the CO_2 emissions from homes, which accounted for 27.2% of the county's emissions in 2022[12]. To achieve this, the homes sector will need to reach net zero emissions. This will be delivered through energy efficiency measures and changing how homes are heated. Consideration will also be given to emerging technologies and plans to reduce electricity usage. This can also contribute to actions in other themes such as the installation of EV charging at home and rooftop solar installations.

The goal for this theme is:

1. **Improved energy efficiency of homes.**

4.1 Social value summary

The interventions delivered under the 'Sustainable Homes' theme have enabled homes across the county to become more energy efficient with the installation of insulation and energy saving measures.

Social value impact arises from the benefits to households of improving their home's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Schemes which support energy efficiency housing improvements have the potential to generate a wide range of benefits including: reducing household energy bills, reduced health issues associated with damp conditions and increase property values.

- £48,532,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Sustainable Homes theme. For the Sustainable Homes theme, we have only presented the 1-year social value impact and not forecast the 10-year net present value as these impacts are based on domestic energy prices.
- Through increased partnership working and increased investment in upskilling in retrofit construction across Suffolk, a more energy efficient housing stock will be delivered.

Social value here is to households who benefit from better energy efficiency, meaning they can experience warmer and healthier homes. On average households save £1,347 if their home is improved by two EPC levels, although savings will vary between residents in Suffolk.

[12] GOV.UK, 2024, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022

4.2 What are we aiming to do?

The logic model demonstrates how the theme activities and outputs are expected to facilitate key outcomes and wider impacts that will be tested in the social value assessment. It visualises the steps involved in how the Sustainable Homes theme can generate added value.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider impacts
11	Increase the proportion of council housing stock which is energy-efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of council housing stock which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	Increased EPC ratings of council housing stock	Improved energy efficiency of homes
12	Increase the proportion of social housing stock which is energy-efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of social housing stock which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	Increased EPC ratings of social housing stock	
13	Increase the proportion of owner-occupied properties which have energy-efficient and have low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of owner-occupied properties which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	Increased EPC ratings of owner-occupied housing	
14	Increase the proportion of private rental properties which are energy-efficient and have low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of private rental properties which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	Increased EPC ratings of private rental housing stock	
15	Ensure tradespeople are properly skilled to undertake retrofit activities, including via training and certification.	Number of tradespeople trained and certified to undertake retrofit	A greater number of tradespeople skilled and certified in retrofit activities	
16	Support all Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to develop policies to require new homes to be built in line with the 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards.	Number of LAs with policies requiring homes to be built in line with 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards.	All Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to follow policies which align with 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards	
17	Support all Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to develop policies to require new homes to be heat network connection-ready, or to connect to heat networks where these already exist.	Number of LAs with policies requiring homes to be heat network connection-ready, or to connect to heat networks where these already exist.	All Suffolk Local Planning Authorities ensure new homes are heat network connection-ready, or ensure heat networks are connected to where these already exist.	

4.3 What have we achieved so far?

The following table captures the progress achieved against each activity and respective output data within the theme. The table demonstrates how well the activities have performed to date and the data forms the basis for estimating overall social value generated.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Progress to date	Data applicable for social value analysis
11	Increase the proportion of council housing stock which is energy-efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of council housing stock which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	10% of 23,000 houses reached	2,300 houses
12	Increase the proportion of social housing stock which is energy-efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of social housing stock which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	77% of 27,000 houses reached	20,790 houses
13	Increase the proportion of owner-occupied properties which have energy-efficient and have low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of owner-occupied properties which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	10% of 218,000 houses reached	21,800 houses
14	Increase the proportion of private rental properties which are energy-efficient and have low carbon energy measures installed.	Percentage of private rental properties which is energy efficient and has low carbon energy measures installed	5% of 63,000 houses reached (Use of Building Research Establishment (BRE) data to proactively inspect the 250 worst properties (EPC E-G). Issue with tenants engaging)	3,150 houses
15	Ensure tradespeople are properly skilled to undertake retrofit activities, including via training and certification.	Number of tradespeople trained and certified to undertake retrofit	Progress outlined below (4.7).	
16	Support all Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to develop policies to require new homes to be built in line with the 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards.	Number of LAs with policies requiring homes to be built in line with 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards.	Currently awaiting guidance on Future Homes Standards from the new government.	
17	Support all Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to develop policies to require new homes to be heat network connection-ready, or to connect to heat networks where these already exist.	Number of LAs with policies requiring homes to be heat network connection-ready, or to connect to heat networks where these already exist.	Paper prepared for Heads of Planning setting our options for Suffolk LPAsToR for Climate Emergency. Planning Advisory Group set up.	

4.4 Quantifiable Social Value under 'Sustainable Homes'

After collation of data collected against actions under the 'Sustainable Homes' theme, key outputs include:

- 2,300 council houses taking up insulation and low carbon energy measures in existing homes.
- 20,790 social houses taking up insulation and low carbon energy measures in existing homes.
- 21,800 owner-occupied houses taking up insulation and low carbon energy measures in existing homes.
- 3,150 private rental properties taking up insulation and low carbon energy measures in existing homes.

4.5 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under the 'Sustainable Homes' theme have enabled homes across the county to become more energy efficient with the installation of insulation and energy saving measures.

Social value impact arises from the benefits to households of improving their home's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). Schemes which support energy efficiency housing improvements have the potential to generate a wide range of benefits including: reducing household energy bills, reduced health issues associated with damp conditions and increase property values.

- The evidence suggests that **£48,532,000** of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Sustainable Homes theme. For the Sustainable Homes theme, we have only presented the 1-year social value impact and not forecast the 10-year

Outcome	Social Value Impact
Council Housing, Social Housing, Owner Occupied Properties, Rental Properties taking up insultation and low carbon measures.	£48,532,000
Total (1 year)	£48,532,000

4.6 Wider impacts and co-benefits

In addition to the social value impacts, there will be a variety co-benefits which can be attributed to the actions of the Sustainable Homes theme.

One of the most important wider impacts is the health and wellbeing benefits of people living in warmer and less damp homes. Tackling poor health resulting from cold and damp can reduce costs for NHS and well as improving living standards for individuals.

Research by Citizens Advice has found a strong link between poor energy efficiency and damp and excessive cold. A national survey of renters by Citizens Advice found that those in homes with an EPC D-G were 73% more likely to experience damp than those with an EPC of A-C. They were also 89% more likely to experience excessive cold than homes with an EPC of A-C. In the survey, 42% of renters

say damp, mould and excessive cold has increased their energy bills, 8% said it had made their respiratory illness worse[13].

An evidence review by Public Health Wales, which looked at studies from around the world, suggests that for every £1 spent improving energy efficiency and warmth in vulnerable households, there is a return of between £1.87 and £4 in health benefits. Importantly, these positive outcomes will be felt most by low-income households, and least by more well-off households even with the same interventions[14].

However, the Public Health Wales review concludes that the evidence base on the long-term health benefits of energy efficiency measures is lacking, especially evidence on the link between particular energy efficient measures and health conditions.

Other related co-benefits include more affordable energy, reduced demand on the national grid and economic growth opportunities:

- Reduced fuel poverty, energy security, reduced demand on national grid which can all be achieved with a more efficient home. Lower fuel bills will reduce the need for those in poverty to choose between eating and heating their home. Further to this, as homes become more efficient their energy demands will decrease.
- Green job creation, A workforce with skills relating to low carbon activities which future-proof jobs for those who need to transition out of carbon intensive industries.
- New markets/growth, Inward investment which should be seen in the housebuilding and retrofitting industries. This will draw investment from companies wishing to get their products in homes, such as insulators or PV providers, to improve their energy efficiency.

This section outlines wider benefits which have emerged through the evidence. These are intangible benefits, drawing on largely qualitative data to supplement the findings in section 4.6 above.

Impacts include:

Impact	Relevant evidence
Employment and skills	The Gemserv report[15] identified that there are significant skill shortages in the county to meet Suffolk's net zero requirements. This includes 'green' skills and retrofit skills which can facilitate the net zero transition in the construction sector. To address this skills gap, the LEP have delivered Skills Bootcamps[16] which have enabled people to retrain as retrofit coordinators through courses such as The Retrofit Academy CIC. These support the new PAS 2035 standard for improved energy efficiency in homes and have equipped people with new skills and experiences to support housebuilding in Suffolk. Work to ensure that tradespeople are properly skilled to undertaken retrofit activity will have a positive social impact on the individuals involved as well as an impact on successful delivery of the SCEP. Through training courses and certificated

[13] Citizens Advice, 2023, *Damp, cold and full of mould*, Accessed here.
[14] Jones & Davies, 2021, *The importance of household energy efficiency for health and well-being*. Accessed here.
[15] Norfolk & Suffolk Retrofit Skills Analysis, April 2023, Gemserv
[16] https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your-workforce/skills-bootcamps/retrofit-your-career-with-fully-funded-skills-bootcamps

	courses, tradespeople will progress into meaningful work and further learning in a sector where demand will only continue to increase. In Suffolk, the LEP has run retrofit skills bootcamps and the Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with Suffolk Public Sector Organisations has held a market engagement event to understand the barriers to retrofit. 'Apprenticeship Suffolk' is an online portal which includes retrofitting support. A market engagement event has also been held with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce to understand retrofit skill gaps in construction companies. This has potential to raise wider awareness of construction sector needs and contribute to SCEP aspirations, whilst creating employment opportunities and career pathways for residents. Social value can be measured based on benefits to individuals from improved employment opportunities, better skills for employment progression, and to businesses through having better leadership and a higher performing staff base.
Partnership and collaboration	Monthly Sustainable Homes subgroup meetings support delivery of SCEP actions and help identify and secure partnership funding opportunities. In 2023, Suffolk CC created the Fuel Poverty Retrofit team, who work with residents living in energy inefficient properties to improve their homes, ensuring a healthy work pipeline for installers in the county. They have delivered the Warm Homes Suffolk initiative (covered in chapter 7) and are working on their retrofit strategy. This has potential to support further collaboration.
Policy implementation	Work to support all Suffolk Local Planning Authorities to develop policies that require new homes to be built in line with 2025 Future Homes and PAS 2035 standards and to be heat network ready or connect to heat networks where they already exist, will have longer term social and economic benefits. Improving the conditions of Suffolk homes and making them more energy efficient will increase consumer savings on energy bills, improve energy saving systems due to lower demand reducing operating and infrastructure costs, lower CO_2 emissions and improve long term health through a reduction in the severity of illness associated with cold homes[17].

[17] Home advantage. Unlocking the benefits of energy efficiency

5 Low Carbon Transport

The Low Carbon Transport theme aims to support people to move around the county in more sustainable ways, with a reduction in vehicles which produce high emissions, and a promotion of alternative modes of transport.

Transport in Suffolk accounted for 37.9% of the county's CO_2 emissions in 2022[18]. The primary focus to reduce this is by supporting residents and businesses to make less use of fossil fuelled vehicles. Methods to deliver this include the promotion of electric vehicles, and less carbon intensive transport methods (such as cycling and walking). These actions are mutually beneficial, as minimising car use will reduce the demand on the electricity grid. Wider benefits will include health improvements through an active lifestyle and air quality improvements through less particulate emissions.

The four goals for this theme are:

1. **Increased sustainable transport readiness.**
2. **More efficient freight.**
3. **Reduced demand for car use.**
4. **Transition to a zero-emission fleet**

5.1 Social value summary

The interventions delivered under the Low Carbon Transport theme have promoted and facilitated lower transport emissions through engagement campaigns and improvements to transport infrastructure. It has also enhanced partnership arrangements through the SCEP's active engagement with stakeholders.

Our social value to society here includes the benefits of reduced carbon emissions resulting from people being encouraged to travel more sustainably. Organisations benefit from the savings arising from more effective and efficient communication. More travel behaviour data is needed to assess health improvements from active travel as these will also be generating social value.

Social value is created by the benefits of increased use of public and active transport, reduced dependence on private cars, and reduced carbon emissions.

- £267,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Low Carbon Transport theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £1,048,000.
- Greater access to sustainable mobility options will increase the number of people who choose to travel in a more environmentally friendly way. By reducing some of the financial barriers, these modes of transport will be available to a wider proportion of the county.

[18] GOV.UK, 2024, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022

5.2 What are we aiming to do?

The logic model demonstrates how actions and interventions feed into the outcomes and impacts that will be tested in the social value impact assessment.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider impacts
18	Refresh and implement the current Suffolk Local Transport Plan, aligned with net zero ambitions.	Percentage of the LTP updated.	A complete Suffolk Local Transport Plan aligns all elements to become net zero	Increased sustainable transport readiness
19	Co-create and refresh travel plans and demand strategies with businesses and organisations.	Number of travel plans and demand strategies with businesses and organisations.	Businesses and organisations have more sustainable transport strategies	
20	Develop Suffolk's active travel infrastructure.	Percentage of journeys by active travel	A stronger network of active travel infrastructure promotes this mode of transport	
21	Improve Suffolk's public transport provision.	Number of journeys made by public transport	Public transport operates more sustainably.	
22	Implement strategies to increase average occupancy rates of car journeys.	Average occupancy rates of car journeys	A reduced number of cars on the road.	Reduced demand for car use.
23	Dis-incentivise car use where viable alternatives exist.	Number of dis-incentivise schemes	Alternatives to cars are used more frequently	
24	Encourage alternatives to travel.	Number of people engaged and encouraged to use alternative transport.	A reduced number of cars on the road.	
25	Develop neighbourhood and community facilities.	Number of facilities delivered	Communities and neighbourhoods have less vehicle traffic	
26	Work with businesses to increase the efficiency of road freight.	Percentage of non-fossil fuel road freight HGV and LGV	Businesses introduce strategies to improve efficiencies in their transport	More efficient freight
27	Encourage low emission freight to support the development of Freeport East Hydrogen Hub and promote partnerships between local firms and the Hub so that local carbon reduction benefits can be maximised.	Number of partnerships with the Hub	Freeport East Hydrogen Hub developed and used by a wider range of businesses	
28	Work with hauliers to increase the proportion of freight movements in and out of Felixstowe by rail.	Number of freight movements in and out of Felixstowe by rail	Increased number of rail freight journeys	
29	Work with bus companies to support the transition to a zero-emission bus fleet.	Percentage of buses on the road that are low or zero emission.	Greater number of zero-emission busses	Transition to a zero-emission fleet
30	Develop a range of enablers that will encourage the uptake of EVs, along with a strategy to improve the charging point network on public owned property and local business premises.	Percentage completion of strategy to encourage uptake.	Improved EV charging network and increased proportion of electric cars	

5.3 What have we achieved so far?

The following table captures the progress achieved against each activity and respective outputs within the theme. The table demonstrates how well the activities have performed to date and forms the basis for estimating overall social value generated.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Progress to date	Data applicable for social value analysis
18	Refresh and implement the current Suffolk Local Transport Plan, aligned with net zero ambitions.	Percentage of the LTP updated.	The Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) developed. Full consultation in took place in autumn 2024 and was approved by cabinet in February 2025.	
19	Co-create and refresh travel plans and demand strategies with businesses and organisations.	Number of travel plans and demand strategies with businesses and organisations.	Ongoing engagement with businesses and support being provided to those wanting to develop plans (18 demand strategies completed). Modeshift stars is an accreditation system demonstrating a company's commitment to net-zero travel plans (26 Modeshift stars attained by schools, residential developments, commercial developments and NHS).	
20	Develop Suffolk's active travel infrastructure.	Percentage of journeys by active travel	Woodbridge active travel project consultation complete. Further scheme and LCWIP consultations in motion.	
21	Improve Suffolk's public transport provision.	Number of journeys made by public transport	DfT 2022 annual bus passenger journeys 2021/22 for Suffolk 9.5m increasing to 12.2m in 2022/23. Numbers still recovering from the low as a result of the pandemic. Currently awaiting passenger numbers from operators.	
22	Implement strategies to increase average occupancy rates of car journeys.	Average occupancy rates of car journeys	No data to articulate progress at present. Delivery of this action relates to LTP implementation. Plan to increase information available on car-sharing at all events including those specific to residential developments. Further plan to request car clubs in increased numbers of resident's developments going forward.	
23	Dis-incentivise car use where viable alternatives exist.	Number of dis-incentivise schemes	New bus lane in Ipswich to encourage Park & Ride use. Other viable alternatives	

			required prior to this action being fully implemented to disincentivise car use.	
24	Encourage alternatives to travel.	Number of people engaged and encouraged to use alternative transport.	2,567 people engaged and encouraged to use alternative methods of travel. Growth in social media followers continuing. New website to go live in March 2025. Plan in place to grow newsletter signups and segment them using groups on Mailchimp.	2,567 people engaged
25	Develop neighbourhood and community facilities.	Number of facilities delivered	2 hub facilities developed. Awaiting 2025/26 Local Authority Bus Grant funding.	
26	Work with businesses to increase the efficiency of road freight.	Percentage of non-fossil fuel road freight HGV and LGV	Data on vehicle registrations available (DfT 2023 quarterly data). Last mile cargo bike schemes Burney, Debenham & Weybread (trial) OBC for Ipswich.	
27	Encourage low emission freight to support the development of Freeport East Hydrogen Hub and promote partnerships between local firms and the Hub so that local carbon reduction benefits can be maximised.	Number of partnerships with the Hub	13 partnerships established with the Hub.	13 partnerships
28	Work with hauliers to increase the proportion of freight movements in and out of Felixstowe by rail.	Number of freight movements in and out of Felixstowe by rail	1m TEU (Twenty Foot Equivalent Units) of freight movements. Saving over 100m HGV miles pa. Significant improvement in rail mode depends on agencies outside of SCC's control. Haughley & Ely junction upgrades to be developed to FBC funded by Network North funding (Oct 2023), improvements expected to be completed post 2035. The limitation for this action is the lack of rail capacity, however, there has been work to ensure that these projects are funded. They will be coordinated by Transport East and are long term projects.	
29	Work with bus companies to support the transition to a zero-emission bus fleet.	Percentage of buses on the road that are low or zero emission.	ZEBRA2 bid unsuccessful. Project stalled somewhat due to lack of funding opportunities. Operators do not have the resources to invest in fleet without additional finances. Continued work with operators to identify new funding opportunities where appropriate. Considering funding some transition with 2025/26 Local Authority Bus Grant once received.	

30	Develop a range of enablers that will encourage the uptake of EVs, along with a strategy to improve the charging point network on public owned property and local business premises.	Percentage completion of strategy to encourage uptake.	EV strategy published and in the public domain. Range of enablers being progressed include EV charging infrastructure roll out (outlined below) and EV car share schemes / take up of BEVs (battery electric vehicle and new registrations). Roll out scheme includes: - Plug in Suffolk (public chargers installed across Suffolk) - Chargers in district council car parks - Road/kerb side charging	

5.4 Quantifiable Social Value under 'Low Carbon Transport'

After collation of data collected against actions under the 'Low Carbon Transport' theme, key outputs include:

- 2,567 people engaged and encouraged to use alternative methods of transport.
- 13 partnerships established between local firms and the Freeport East Hydrogen Hub.

5.5 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under the Low Carbon Transport theme have promoted and facilitated lower transport emissions through engagement campaigns and improvements to transport infrastructure. It has also enhanced partnership arrangements through the SCEP's active engagement with stakeholders.

Social value is created by the benefits of increased use of public and active transport, reduced dependence on private cars, and reduced carbon emissions.

The evidence suggests that £267,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Low Carbon Transport theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £1,048,000.

Outcome	Social Value Impact
People engaged and encouraged to use alternative methods of transport	£177,000
Partnerships recorded between local firms and the Freeport East Hydrogen Hub	£90,000
Total (1 year)	£267,000
10-years	£1,048,000

5.6 Wider benefits and co-benefits

In addition to the social value impacts, there will be a variety co-benefits which can be attributed to the actions of the Low Carbon Transport theme. The co-benefits themselves are interrelated – for example, improved air quality also contributes to improved health. Co-benefits identified for this theme are:

- Improved health and wellbeing which can be achieved by people taking more active modes of transport to move around the county and through reduced particulate matter pollution from vehicles.
- Improved air quality which will be seen with fewer internal combustion engine powered vehicles on the roads, more people choosing active transport, and public transport options become less carbon intensive.
- Community resilience and cohesion which will occur through projects which engage the community and encourage them to collaborate to find solutions. This can ensure people maintain higher levels of low carbon transport use even after the intervention has ended.
- Financial savings through the use of public transport, reducing spend on parking and fuel. Active travel is free at the point of use and can be substantially cheaper in the long-term. A successful reduction in congestion will benefit businesses and individuals who still rely on driving, as well as bus efficiency.

- New markets/growth, Inward investment to occur throughout the county's transport infrastructure network and shared mobility opportunities.

The table below outlines the potential wider impacts of the SCEP through the qualitative evidence available. These impacts are largely intangible and have been grouped by theme, drawing on our desk research and insights from SCEP theme leads to supplement the social value assessment findings in 5.6.

Impact	Relevant evidence
Widening Access to Sustainable Mobility	In 2023, Suffolk CC commissioned the Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Report[19] as part of the SCEP to inform the development of a Suffolk-wide EV strategy. The report identified viable opportunities for Suffolk to accelerate its EV infrastructure, such as reviewing existing fleet, capitalising on EV research and innovation in the county and promoting EV grants and charging share schemes to the public. Enhancing the deployment of EV infrastructure has potential to support job creation, attract investment and accessibility to sustainable transport for Suffolk residents. The Department for Transport's Capability Fund has enabled the roll-out of free e-bike trials in Suffolk, providing a fleet of 20 e-bikes for individuals to use for up to 8 weeks at a time. The initial roll-out has been through businesses including the Port of Ipswich and Vets4Pets, which has now been extended to staff working with Leading Lives. There are plans for e-bikes to be rolled out across the county. This has potential to deliver positive social change in terms of improving physical/mental health and wellbeing and offers an affordable commuting alternative for people travelling to work. One of the theme actions is to ''work with bus companies to support the transition to a net zero emission bus fleet". A ZEBRA2 bid was submitted to upgrade depots and replace all buses with electric ones in Lowestoft (First) and Sudbury (Chambers) but funding was not granted by the Department for Transport. SCEP partners are working with operators to identify new funding opportunities and bid when appropriate. The 2023 progress report[20] states the SCEP has commissioned a feasibility study to understand the viability of last mile delivery solutions in Air Quality Management Areas. This will encourage the rollout of low emission fleet, with future potential to deliver social value. This could occur through improvements in public health outcomes, reduce car emissions and therefore have a higher quality of life. SCC is working with Zedify, a zero-emission delivery service to review opportunities and trial electric cargo bikes with Suffolk businesses. There have also been bids prepared for Active Travel Funding, which will build on the existing Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan within Suffolk County Council and contribute to the wider behavioural objective of reducing demand for car use. Introduction of West End Road bus lane in Ipswich to encourage use of Park & Ride service. While it is too early to evidence increased journeys through public transport or active travel,

[19] https://www.greensuffolk.org/app/uploads/2023/03/Suffolk-EVReady-Final-Report-compressed.pdf
[20] https://www.greensuffolk.org/app/uploads/2023/09/Progress-Overview-Summer-2023.pdf

	these collective activities will pave the way for behaviour change and encourage take-up of more sustainable transport modes in the longer term.
Encouraging low emission freight to support the Freeport East Hydrogen Hub	The Freeport East Hydrogen Hub partnership with Hyhaul.co.uk will utilise a £35m DfT to realise hydrogen refuelling facilities and support hauliers to acquire hydrogen powered HGVs through an 80% subsidy on lease costs of pure hydrogen HGVs. For Port 1, Great Blakenham, there are advanced plans for hydrogen refuelling station with Financial Investment Decision (FID) expected March-April 2025 (www.port-one.co.uk). Interest has been received from firms operating in Suffolk include Greene King, Eddie Stobart, James Kemball and Ceva Logistics. ScottishPower's plans for 100MW electrolyser site at Felixstowe is awaiting HMG decision on its Hydrogen Allocation Round 2 bid which will be located at Freeport East Hydrogen Hub. In April 2024, Halteman Carless signed an MoU with RWE for a green hydrogen plant at its Harwich refinery with view to submission of HAR 3 bid. Green hydrogen will be used to decarbonise refinery heating requirements and in the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). Rux Energy who have located within Freeport East site, in partnership with Carnot, are developing a technology for the innovative tank storage of hydrogen to enable the use of green hydrogen powered generators to provide quayside power to support decarbonisation of port-based marine operations. The Hydrogen Zero Emission Maritime (HyZEM) project will receive £1.44 million from Innovate UK and a similar sum from Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. HyZEM focuses on developing low-carbon green hydrogen technology for high powered workboats and Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs). The partnership was facilitated by Freeport East and includes leading UK and Australian businesses specialising in green hydrogen storage and propulsion technologies. The partnership includes Steamology as lead, National Composites Centre (NCC), Duodrive Limited, Chartwell Marine Limited, The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult and CTV operator, Tidal Transit.

6 Industrial and Commercial Energy Use

The Industrial and Commercial Energy Use theme works with the private and public sectors to support and enable them to reduce their carbon emissions.

Industry, business and the public sector contributed 29.4% of Suffolk's carbon emissions in 2022[21]. To reduce emissions across these sectors there is a need to have buy-in from a wide range of stakeholders. Some businesses have already pledged their own net zero policies, but it is hoped this can be expanded further with a formalised carbon charter with support from the sustainability hub.

The three goals for this theme include:

1. **Carbon literacy and active carbon management.**
2. **Decarbonisation in the industrial and commercial sector.**
3. **Decarbonisation in the public sector.**

6.1 Social value summary

The interventions delivered under the Industrial and Commercial Energy Use Theme have supported businesses to take decarbonisation measure to tackle the emissions from their energy use. The theme has also provided guidance on how best to achieve this. The public sector in Suffolk is also setting an example of successful ways to work towards net zero.

Social value is generated by the actions businesses and public sector organisations are taking to reduce and decarbonise their energy use, as a result of engaging with the services provided.

- £879,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Industrial and Commercial Energy use theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £3,453,000.
- Increasing carbon literacy across Suffolk will equip individuals and communities with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the impact of carbon emissions. This understanding will have longer term impact on actions taken.
- Raising awareness of the climate emergency in the workplace fosters a sense of shared responsibility in both the private and public sectors to work towards mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Social value here is felt by businesses who can access training and advice for no cost. The average cost of a management training course is around £1,200, so businesses in Suffolk are saving this. Reducing carbon emissions brings social value to society as a whole.

[21] GOV.UK, 2024, UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022

6.2 What are we aiming to do?

The logic model demonstrates how actions and interventions feed into the outcomes and impacts that will be tested in the social value impact assessment.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider impacts
31	Run active communications to engage broadly with business and promote best practice.	Number of businesses engaged	Businesses actively understand decarbonisation	Increased carbon literacy, leading to greater carbon management
32	Maintain a comprehensive and engaging information hub including a range of resources to support businesses to manage their emissions.	Number of views on information hub	Businesses actively engaging with information hub to manage emissions	
33	Provide points of contact and expertise that businesses can access to support their pathways to net zero.	Number of businesses accessing advice services	Businesses actively supported on the path to net zero	
34	Help consumers to purchase from climate-conscious businesses.	Number of businesses holding a Charter accreditation	Consumers recognising and purchasing from a climate-conscious business.	
35	Provide businesses with information and understanding of specific measures to enhance confidence to invest, including access to specialist support.	Footprint of businesses actively engaged.	Businesses undertaking measures to reduce their carbon footprint	Decarbonisation in the industrial and commercial sector.
36	Ensure businesses have access to the funding needed to invest in decarbonisation measures.	Amount of accessible funding.	Businesses leveraging funding to invest in decarbonisation.	
37	Support businesses to implement and access heat networks.	Number of heat network feasibility studies.	Businesses accessing heat networks.	
38	Work across the public sector to ensure wide uptake of net zero plans and promotion of best practice.	Number of public sector organisations with net zero plans.	Public sector displays best practice towards net zero.	Decarbonisation in the public sector.
39	Adopt planning policy that is consistent with net zero goals and minimises the need for future retrofit (including requirements for efficiency levels, renewables, heat network connections, etc.).	Number of local planning authorities that have planning policies with net zero goals	LPAs deliver planning policies which align with net zero targets.	
40	Shift supply chain emissions across the public sector to net zero, including through accurate monitoring and the adoption of requirements that support decarbonisation in suppliers.	Footprint of supply chain emissions.	Public sector tier 3 emissions are reduced and accurately monitored.	

6.3 What have we achieved so far?

The following table captures the progress achieved against each activity and respective outputs within the theme. The table demonstrates how well the activities have performed to date.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Progress to date	Data applicable for social value analysis
31	Run active communications to engage broadly with business and promote best practice.	By 2025, business owners, employees, and consumers have an active understanding of decarbonisation strategies, contributing to a reduction in business energy use.	Business engagement activity including website development, conferences, newsletters, event attendance. Outputs not monitored formally.	
32	Maintain a comprehensive and engaging information hub including a range of resources to support businesses to manage their emissions.		Expansion of the Carbon Charter website, which is thorough, updated regularly and includes new materials e.g., Net Zero Diagnostic Tool, further guides and sector specific materials.	
33	Provide points of contact and expertise that businesses can access to support their pathways to net zero (including support for the Net Zero Knowledge Hub and Specialist Business Support Service).		787 businesses supported through NZ consultancy - over the 780 target. Schools support post in place (see Collaborative Action for full details). SPF NZ Suffolk supported 162 SMEs (target 256) and 143 Decarbonisation plans (135) produced. Both projects run until March 2025. Tailored support for VE sector businesses being launched in April 2025. Attributed savings from the projects supported by the hub are 700 $tCO_2(e)$ and attributed savings from the energy audits and specialist reports are 400$tCO_2(e)$.	949 businesses 1,100 tCO_2 (e)
34	Help consumers to purchase from climate-conscious businesses.		Carbon charter award levels: Gold: 44, Silver: 56, Bronze: 60, Awaiting: 3 – **Total 167**	
35	Provide businesses with information and understanding of specific measures to enhance confidence to invest, including access to specialist support.	By 2030, increased numbers of businesses investing in decarbonisation measures.	Funding approved by SPSL. Conversations to build on work undertaken by LEP and integrate with new Growth Strategy.	
36	Ensure businesses have access to the funding needed to invest in decarbonisation measures.		Grants promoted through business contacts and communication networks.	
37	Support businesses to implement and access heat networks.		Progress outlined in Section 7.4.	

38	Work across the public sector to ensure wide uptake of net zero plans and promotion of best practice.	By 2025, public sector shows visible leadership through its own decarbonisation.	Visible leadership towards decarbonisation across authorities. Council decarbonisation plans published. Capital works being delivered. Open day event held.	
39	Adopt planning policy that is consistent with net zero goals, and minimises the need for future retrofit (including requirements for efficiency levels, renewables, heat network connections, etc.).	By 2025, public sector policy is increasingly aligned with the net zero target for the Industrial & Commercial sector.	Mapped current requirements and timetables for Local Plans.	
40	Shift supply chain emissions across the public sector to net zero, including through accurate monitoring and the adoption of requirements that support decarbonisation in suppliers.		Climate Change Commercial Ask developed. Work ongoing with authorities. The SCC procurement process requires bidders to demonstrate how they will add economic, environmental, and social benefits. Climate Change Commercial Asks adopted by local authorities. The council has contracted a provider of AI based supply chain analysis.	

6.4 Quantifiable Social Value under 'Industrial and Commercial Energy Use'

After collation of data collected against actions under the 'Industrial and Commercial Energy Use' theme, key outputs include:

- 949 businesses supported and accessing advice services.
- 1,100 $tCO_2(e)$ via business support services.

6.5 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under the Industrial and Commercial Energy Use Theme have supported businesses to take decarbonisation measures to tackle the emissions from their energy use. The theme has also provided guidance on how best to achieve this. The public sector in Suffolk is also setting an example of successful ways to work towards net zero.

Social value is generated by the actions businesses are taking to reduce and decarbonise their energy use, as a result of engaging with the services.

The evidence suggests that £879,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Industrial and Commercial Energy Use theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £3,453,000.

Outcome	Social Value Impact
Businesses supported and accessing advice services	£862,000
Carbon savings from business support work	£17,000
Total (1 year)	£879,000
10-years	£3,453,000

6.6 Wider benefits and co-benefits

In addition to the social value impacts, there will be a variety co-benefits which can be attributed to the actions of the Industrial and Commercial Energy Use theme. The co-benefits themselves are interrelated – for example, improved air quality also contributes to improved health. Co-benefits identified for this theme are:

- Improved health and wellbeing will be achieved by employees and local residents who benefit from a cleaner and less polluted environment.
- Improved air quality from reduced fossil fuel use during business operations and transport which creates benefits for society as a whole. This benefit will arise most acutely in industrial sectors.
- Financial savings will be achieved by businesses who engage in more efficient energy use, improving their resilience. This will be most acutely felt by carbon intensive companies as their energy use reduces or transitions to cheaper sources, or energy produced on-site. Businesses subject to the UK Emissions Trading Scheme may also benefit from needing fewer GHG permits.

- New markets/growth, Inward investment will be driven by businesses developing new energy solutions, or investing to benefit from the capabilities and assets in the region.

The table below outlines wider impacts which have emerged through the qualitative evidence available. These impacts are largely intangible and have been grouped by theme, drawing on our desk research and insights from SCEP theme leads.

Impact	Relevant evidence
Business action to decarbonise	The increased knowledge that businesses have received around their emissions and possible carbon reduction measures will enable them to take more impactful action. As more companies are now able to access additional funding to support these decarbonisation measures their impact will be seen sooner, and by a greater range of businesses. Through access to heat networks, businesses will be able to heat their premises more sustainably. This will reduce demand on inefficient and emissions heavy methods. Businesses can also benefit from cost reductions for their energy through economies of scale with this service.
Commercial carbon literacy	In Suffolk there has been a range of engagement activity with businesses, employees and consumers to increase understanding of decarbonisation strategies including public access to information about the Carbon Charter (as outlined in Chapter 8). This is of benefit to businesses in Suffolk, as it is widely evidenced that lack of accessible and trustworthy information is part of the barrier for businesses, particularly SMEs, in investing in carbon saving measures. Charter accreditations have been established which help identify environmentally responsible businesses and catalyse the buying power of consumers who are environmentally conscious[22].
Public sector example	Suffolk County Council have established the Climate Change Commercial Ask: the procurement process now requires bidders to demonstrate how they will add economic, environmental, and social benefits in line with the response to the climate emergency[23].

[22] As referred to by the 'Industrial and Commercial Energy Use' Theme lead.
[23] Climate Change Commercial Ask

7 Cleaner Power

The Cleaner Power theme supports the development of a more environmentally friendly energy grid, it utilises renewable energy and novel approaches to networks.

The demand for a more renewable energy system has been growing, as emissions have decreased since 2005. This will play a key role in supporting the transition to greener transport and more efficient homes and businesses. Small-scale generation by roof-top solar, has been shown to be viable, and will reduce the demand on the national grid with more locally produced energy.

The four goals for this theme are:

1. **Grow Suffolk's low carbon energy production capacity.**
2. **Support the development of a smart and flexible grid.**
3. **Develop Suffolk's low carbon economy.**
4. **Public sector leads the way with renewable energy production.**

7.1 Social value summary

The interventions delivered under the Cleaner Power theme have promoted the use of renewable energy. This has included the promotion of community energy initiatives, and greater engagement with UK Power Networks. Businesses have also been supported to find more sustainable ways to power their operations. The public sector has led the way in transitioning civic buildings to renewable energy sources. The councils have also supported this work by developing policy to further promote these actions.

- £169,000 of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Cleaner Power theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is £663,000.
- The advancement of Low Carbon Heat Networks, which can lower prices for residents, will contribute to the alleviation of fuel poverty. This is further supported by collaborative energy planning projects which can make the grid more flexible.
- Communities and businesses have been empowered to take action, which has led to the creation of community led energy decarbonisation projects. Clear leadership by SCC has expedited this development.

Social value includes businesses and organisations receiving targeted training without cost, saving money on upskilling and reduced cost of innovation. Public sector bodies benefit from income generation from solar PV installations on civic buildings.

7.2 What are we aiming to do?

The logic model demonstrates how actions and interventions feed into the outcomes and impacts that will be tested in the social value impact assessment.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Wider impacts
41	Encourage the installation of low carbon heat networks where viable.	Number of low carbon heat networks for Suffolk homes.	Improved connection to low carbon heat networks for Suffolk homes.	Grow Suffolk's low carbon energy production capacity.
42	Incorporate on-site renewable energy into new development energy policies in updated Local Plans.	Number of local plans with onsite renewable energy requirements	Increased availability of low carbon energy sources.	
43	Set ambitious and supportive renewable energy planning policies in updated Local Plans by having planners take an evidence-led approach to identifying areas where large-scale installations are most likely to be acceptable.	Number of local plans with renewable energy planning policies	Increased availability of low carbon energy sources.	Support the development of a smart and flexible grid.
44	Pilot and support the uptake of network innovations in Suffolk.	Number of businesses accessing innovative approaches.	Improved use of network innovations to reduce grid demand.	
45	Enhance strategic collaboration between the public sector and the Distribution Network Operator, integrating network, planning, and climate emergency activities.	Engagement with the UK Power Network - improved collaboration	Improved collaboration of strategic network planning.	
46	Provide targeted support and skills investment towards low carbon infrastructure sectors.	Number of businesses targeted with support and skills investment.	Improved availability of skills needed in Suffolk for the low carbon transition.	Develop Suffolk's low carbon economy.
47	Host renewables installations on public/civic buildings, as well as public land holdings and brownfield land.	Number of installations on civic buildings and public landholdings.	Increased capacity of renewable energy installations on large civic buildings and land.	Public sector leads the way with renewable energy production.
48	Purchase electricity from local and community-owned renewables projects through long-term agreements.	Number of community owned renewable projects supplying councils through long term agreements.	Increased proportion of local renewable energy procurement.	Grow Suffolk's low carbon energy production capacity.

7.3 What have we achieved so far?

The following table captures the progress achieved against each activity and respective outputs within the theme. The table demonstrates how well the activities have performed to date and forms the basis for estimating overall social value generated.

Actions	Activities	Outputs	Progress to date	Data applicable for social value analysis
41	Encourage the installation of low carbon heat networks where viable.	Number of low carbon heat networks for Suffolk homes.	There is a target of 5 heat networks to be installed across Suffolk; 2 are being progressed. SCC are leading on a proposal for an Ipswich central heat network. The project is at Detailed Project Development stage using a combination of County Council (Climate Emergency) and Government Grant funding. The Stowmarket SHELF heat network scheme is at early stages.	
42	Incorporate on-site renewable energy into new development energy policies in updated Local Plans.	Number of local plans with onsite renewable energy requirements	Local plans at different stages – updated on planning policies from across Suffolk have been requested.	
43	Set ambitious and supportive renewable energy planning policies in updated Local Plans by having planners take an evidence-led approach to identifying areas where large-scale installations are most likely to be acceptable.	Number of local plans with renewable energy planning policies	As above.	
44	Pilot and support the uptake of network innovations in Suffolk.	Number of businesses accessing innovative approaches.	18 businesses engaged to date (the target is 100). WSC and SCC using battery storage technology to enter into grid flexibility services. WS college now operating a BESS. WSC and SCC presented with first Battery Box site options. BABMS have instructed Battery Box to identify potential installation sites Smart metering solutions	18 businesses accessing innovative approaches

			being installed on public sector buildings Officers attended industry wide hydrogen workshop.	
45	Enhance strategic collaboration between the public sector and the Distribution Network Operator, integrating network, planning, and climate emergency activities.	Engagement with the UK Power Network - improved collaboration.	Local authorities working with UK Power Network net zero hub with a series of events taking place. Workshop being planned.	
46	Provide targeted support and skills investment towards low carbon infrastructure sectors.	Number of businesses targeted with support and skills investment.	12 businesses recording activity in support/skills investment. Progress is ongoing as further educational colleges and low carbon industries are responding to the challenge.	12 businesses accessing support and skills investment.
47	Host renewables installations on public/civic buildings, as well as public land holdings and brownfield land.	Number of installations on civic buildings and public landholdings.	Significant investment into renewable energy systems from across the public sector. WSC and SCC have both tendered for solar car port projects. West Suffolk Decarbonisation fund launched. Aimed to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on community building in West Suffolk.	Solar panels installed on 80[24] civic buildings.
48	Purchase electricity from local and community-owned renewables projects through long-term agreements.	Number of community owned renewable projects supplying councils through long term agreements.	Peer to peer energy trading platform powering public estate buildings in West Suffolk. WSC have presented to other councils from across England on how the platform works and the opportunity it creates.	

[24] Derived from 28% of civic SSC land and building assets (Local authority land and property - Suffolk County Council) and WSC asset list (Asset list (westsuffolk.gov.uk))

7.4 Quantifiable Social Value under 'Cleaner Power'

After collation of data collected against actions under the 'Cleaner Power' theme, key outputs include:

- 18 businesses accessing innovative approaches.
- 12 businesses accessing support and skills investment.
- 80 civic buildings with renewable installations.

7.5 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under the Cleaner Power theme have promoted the use of renewable energy. This has included the use of heat networks by communities, and greater engagement with local power networks. Businesses have also been supported to find more sustainable ways to power their operations. The public sector has led the way in transitioning civic buildings to renewable energy sources. The councils have also supported this work by developing policy to further promote these actions.

The evidence suggests that **£169,000** of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Cleaner Power theme. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is **£663,000.**

Outcome	Social Value Impact
Businesses accessing innovative approaches	£89,000
Businesses accessing support and skills investment	£79,000
Civic buildings with renewable installations	£1,000
Total (1 year)	**£169,000**
10-years	**£663,000**

7.6 Wider benefits and co-benefits

In addition to the social value impacts, there will be a variety co-benefits which can be attributed to the actions of the Cleaner Power theme. The co-benefits themselves are interrelated – for example, improved air quality also contributes to improved health. Co-benefits identified for this theme are:

- **Improved health and wellbeing** will be achieved by residents who see a reduction in their fuel bills and benefit from a cleaner and less polluted environment.
- **Improved air quality** will be seen where renewable energy sources replace heavily emitting power sources such as fossil fuels. The reduction in emissions from energy will put fewer pollutants into the air.
- **Reduced fuel poverty, energy security, reduced demand on National Grid** will be achieved as greater levels of renewable energy will reduce Suffolk's reliance on imported fuels, protecting against price fluctuations, and reducing costs. Locally produced and stored energy distributed via local networks – like heat networks or developments with electricity microgrids - will reduce demand on the National Grid.

- **Greater social acceptance of projects** will be seen where communities are empowered to take action together via community owned renewables projects.

The table below outlines wider impacts which have emerged through the qualitative evidence available. These impacts are largely intangible and have been grouped by theme, drawing on our desk research and insights from SCEP theme leads.

Impact	Relevant evidence
Advancing Low Carbon Heat Networks and Alleviating Fuel Poverty	Energy Systems Catapult (ESC) were commissioned to conduct a LEAR, a local energy system modelling tool. This pulls together information on energy demand, generation, storage and distribution assets, social factors including fuel poverty and characteristics such as building design types and local geography. This uses data analysis and aspects of machine learning. It supports the strategic deployment of low carbon solutions across the county. This could improve access to cheaper energy solutions and help tackle fuel poverty. Two projects are currently at feasibility stage, which shows there is some progress (with a target of 5, one in each local authority area) in encouraging the installation of low carbon heat networks. This includes the Heating Bildeston project[25], which have appraised different options and identified a roadmap for the scope of work required. The findings from the feasibility study will be used to progress other possible networks. If successful, the wider benefits that could occur are: employment creation in the renewable energy industry, and helping alleviate fuel poverty for vulnerable households (by having a more affordable low carbon heating solution).
Collaborative Energy Planning	Suffolk CC have been in regular contact with UK Power Networks (UKPN), with information shared between Suffolk Office of Data & Analytics (SODA) and UKPN. Better data sharing can help facilitate informed decision making. There has been progress with local area energy planning and regional energy spatial planning, contributing towards SCEP ambitions to drive change in local plans. West Suffolk have SP1 and LP1 in the emerging plan, which will help embed more sustainable design and construction of new developments.
Empowering Communities and Businesses	There is some evidence that businesses are accessing innovation networks. The Community Energy Pathways programme was established to develop a Community Energy Network. The programme strengthens new/existing community groups aiming to cut carbon in their communities. This has facilitated community led energy decarbonisation projects and provided access to a funding database for community energy businesses. Five community clusters, representing 28 towns and villages are receiving in-depth, technical support to help them realise their community energy projects.

[25] https://irp.cdn-website.com/4cf12190/files/uploaded/Bildeston%20Heat%20Network%20-%20Feasibility%20Study%20v1.4.pdf

Civic Engagement	The SCEP aims to have renewable installations in civic buildings. To date, 28% of civic buildings in Suffolk have renewables deployed. In West Suffolk, all civic buildings have solar PV installed, and there is a district wide target to remove gas by 2030. This demonstrates environmental leadership, contributing to SCEP's mission to achieve net zero emissions.

8 Wider projects

This section presents the social value benefits of other projects delivered in Suffolk which have complemented the SCEP and its aspirations.

8.1 Solar Together Suffolk

8.1.1 About the project

Solar Together Suffolk, run by Suffolk County Council on behalf of the partnership, aims to increase the number of Solar Photovoltaic Panels (PVs) and battery storage systems across the county. The scheme is designed for homeowners, renters (with permission), SMEs and Commonhold Associations to benefit from a collective purchasing model to secure a great deal on solar PV and battery storage. Pre-vetted and certified installers compete in a lowest price auction to deliver this to residents.

The table below demonstrates the project's achievements between 2018 and 2024. Since 2018, the project has installed PVs on 2,384 homes, to a value of over £17.5 million. 647 battery storage systems have also been installed (to utilise solar energy in less sunny periods).

	Progress 2018-2024
PV Installations	2,384
Total installed (MW)	9.215
CO_2 reduction (tonnes)	2,026
PV investment	£17,516,250
Battery installed	647
Total installed battery (kWh)	6,206

Source: Solar Together Suffolk project team

8.1.2 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under Solar Together Suffolk has enabled homes across the county to reduce their environmental impact with the installation of PVs and battery storage systems.

Social value here arises to residents from being able to access more affordable energy and to society from a reduction in carbon emissions.

Outcome	Social Value Impact
Improved access to affordable energy through PV installations	£29,000
Reduced carbon footprint through CO_2 reduction (tonnes)	£30,000
Total (1 year)	**£59,000**
10-years	**£232,000**

8.2 Warm Homes Suffolk

8.2.1 About the Project

Warm Homes Suffolk is an £18 million grant which provides support to insulate and improve the energy efficiency of private homes for owners, tenants and landlords (where there is no gas central heating and the total annual income for the occupants is less than £36,000). The focus of this project is to improve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings from inefficient D, E, F and G ratings to C or higher.

The table below shows that between six different schemes, the project has supported energy efficiency improvements in 1,368 properties, resulting in carbon savings of 1,760 CO_2. Of the homes benefitting, 85% received one improvement measure, whilst 15% received two or more improvements.

	Grant award	Grant Spend	Number of properties upgraded	Number of measures	Return	Carbon Savings (tonnes CO_2)
Total	£18,547,935	£14,122,438	1,368	1,571	£4,425,497	1759.9

Source: Warm homes project team

8.2.2 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under Warmer Homes Suffolk has improved the condition of homes across the county and delivered carbon savings.

The evidence suggests that **£1,408,000** of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under Warm Homes Suffolk. For the Warm Homes project, we have only presented the 1-year social value impact and not forecast the 10-year net present value as these impacts are based on domestic energy prices.

Outcome	Social Value Impact
Properties upgraded	£1,382,000
CO_2 reduction (tonnes)	£26,000
Total (1 year)	**£1,408,000**

8.3 Carbon Charter

8.3.1 About the project

The Carbon Charter was launched by Suffolk County Council and the Environment Agency in 2010 as a means for local businesses to have their achievements verified and has since evolved into Suffolk's well-known hub for business sustainability. Therefore, it has become a powerful network through which much of the ICE theme actions are communicated and implemented, directly to the aspired demographic. The Carbon Charter provides support and recognition to businesses throughout Norfolk and Suffolk as they take positive action towards net zero. Providing a benchmark for sustainable business, the Carbon Charter continues to develop an ever-growing suite of resources available to all. The current total of accreditations awarded stands at 804, meaning more businesses than ever before are making a clear and visible statement of their commitment to reducing the environmental impact of their business operations. Holding the certification has become the recognised mark of sustainable business in Suffolk. The 25 by 25 campaign sets an ambitious target for Suffolk businesses to engage with the Net Zero journey and poses a challenge to aim for a 25% reduction in their carbon emissions

by 2025. Businesses making the pledge receive access to support to help them achieve their goal, along with a detailed information pack. A conference was hosted in partnership with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce to showcase best practice. The Net Zero Business consultancy, in partnership with Groundwork East, provides fully flexible expert support to Suffolk SMEs around any aspect of their net zero journey. More than 300 businesses have been supported on everything from footprint calculation to building management systems, from battery storage to EVs.

The scheme has three tiers: Bronze for businesses at the start of their net zero message; Silver for businesses that can demonstrate a carbon reduction; Gold for businesses which are leading the way and can set an example to others wishing to achieve net zero. Businesses typically start at the Bronze stage (with a few businesses actively engaged in carbon reduction starting at silver). As part of the scheme, businesses can receive an assessment (chargeable based on employment size) which provides tailored suggestions to improve the company's carbon footprint.

To date, there have been 804 accreditations (gold, silver or bronze) for 522 businesses. The table below shows the breakdown of the 163 current active members of the scheme, as of August 2024.

Accreditation	Count	Percent
Gold	44	27.5%
Silver	56	35.0%
Bronze	60	37.5%
Awaiting	3	
Total		163

Source: Carbon Charter project team

8.3.2 Social value assessment and wider benefits

The Carbon Charter project is an important tool to guide business' carbon reductions. Through the desire to progress to higher levels of accreditation businesses are expected to implement a range of improvements to their environmental impact. These actions are not a direct output of the project, therefore the social value generated will be produced elsewhere.

8.4 Community Thermal Imaging Project

8.4.1 About the project

The Community Thermal Imaging project was delivered in two phases between November 2022 to April 2023 and November 2023 to April 2024. The project provided community groups with thermal imaging cameras to conduct heat loss surveys of buildings. This can highlight where heat is escaping from the homes, and better target measures to make the building more energy efficient. Communities who identify a problem were then referred on to other schemes – such as the Warm Homes grant.

The table below shows the activity conducted as part of the project, which saw the energy efficiency of residents' homes improve by 50% during 2023-24.

	2022-23	2023-24
Communities engaged	61	56
Homes surveyed	700	960
Residents' homes improved	-	50%

Source: Community thermal imaging project team

8.4.2 Social Value Impact

The interventions delivered under the Thermal Imaging Project have generated social value impacts around sustainable communities and increased belonging and a feeling of wellbeing of individuals within them.

The evidence suggests that **£378,000** of measurable social value impact has been generated by activities under the Community Thermal Imaging Project. Over 10 years, the long-term social value impact of this activity is **£1,485,000.**

Outcome	Social Value Impact
Number of communities engaged[26]	£378,000
Total (1 year)	**£378,000**
10-years	**£1,485,000**

[26] 117 communities engaged in total.

THEME	MEASURABLE SOCIAL VALUE IMPACT	BREAKDOWN	
Solar Together Suffolk 	**£59,000**	**Increase in the number of PVs and battery storage systems across Suffolk**	
		2,384 PV installations	Equivalent to **£29,000** in social value from access to more affordable energy
		2,026 tCO2(e) in carbon emissions saved	Equivalent to **£30,000** through carbon savings
Warm Homes Suffolk 	**£1.4m**	**Increased insulation and energy efficiency of private homes**	
		1,368 properties upgraded	Equivalent to **£1.4m** in EPC improvements for residents.
		1,760 tCO2(e) in carbon emissions saved	Equivalent to **£26,000** through carbon savings
Community Thermal Imaging 	**£378,000**	**Provision of thermal imaging cameras to conduct heat loss surveys**	
		117 communities engaged in the project	Equivalent of **£378,000** in social value from community participation

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