Westmorland & Furness Council

Climate Action Plan

Part Two, Appendix 3, Table of Actions 2026/27



Action reference numbering

Action reference numbers are used to track progress and maintain continuity between review periods.

- Where an action has been completed but requires ongoing monitoring or a follow-up action, the original reference is retained and the year of the review is added. For example, action 1E from 2023/24 would become 1E24 if further activity was identified during the 2024 review.
- If an action reference does not reappear in a subsequent review, this indicates that the action has been completed and no further follow-up is required. Reference numbers are not reused for new actions, as this could create confusion by associating different activities with the same identifier over time.
- Any new actions introduced during a review year are assigned a new reference using the format Number + Theme + Review Year. For example, a new energy-related action identified in the 2026 review would be referenced as 11E26.

As a result of this approach, some action reference numbers may appear to be missing from later action plans. This reflects the completion of those actions rather than an omission from the document.

The way we produce energy

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
1E25	Resources	Develop and deliver carbon reduction measures to different leisure centres across W&F aligned to the Council's Leisure Strategy.	2026/27
3E26	Community, Economy and Place	Continue to work in partnership with ZCCP and Enterprising Cumbria to identify and advance opportunities for community energy projects emerging from the SPARK feasibility study.	2025/26
4E	Resources	Identify renewable energy opportunities on council property to support the Council's financial and environmental sustainability.	2037/38
6E	Community, Economy and Place	Actively engage with Electricity North West on grid issues; demand, peak, infrastructure and to explore opportunities to collaborate on low carbon technologies and grid innovation	2026/27
8E	Community, Economy and Place	Identify areas suitable for renewable energy installations in the draft local plan.	2027/28
9E	Community, Economy and Place	Work with partners to help the development of a Local Area Energy Plan and the Regional Energy Strategic Plan.	2026/27
10E	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver a Heat Network Zoning and Feasibility study to establish a baseline for implementing heat network priority zones.	2025/26

The way we live

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
1L	Community, Economy and Place	Embed Climate Change and the Net Zero 2037 target into the Westmorland and Furness draft Local Plan.	2028/29
2L	Community, Economy and Place	Embed clear and accessible community engagement within the Local Plan consultation process to demonstrate and communicate how planning decisions can shape climate action, resilience, and broader sustainability outcomes.	2028/29
3L	Community, Economy and Place	Develop and implement an NFM opportunity mapping tool and project pipeline, identifying at least 1 priority catchments/sites for water storage interventions, with 1 pilot schemes progressed to feasibility stage.	2026/27
4L	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the final stage of the Greening Eden Businesses Scheme.	2026/27
5L26	Community, Economy and Place	Warm Homes Grant Delivery (Year 2 of 3) delivery of £4.9M fuel poverty and decarbonisation programme.	2026/27
6L25	Community, Economy and Place	Warm Homes Grant Delivery (Year 1 of 3) delivery of £1.9M fuel poverty and decarbonisation programme.	2026/27
7L25	Community, Economy and Place	Warm Homes Social Housing Fund (Year 1 of 3) delivery of £2M fuel poverty and decarbonisation programme.	2026/27
8L	Community, Economy and Place	To review EPC ratings on social housing stock and use this information to develop a decarbonisation plan.	2029/30
9L	Community, Economy and Place	Integrate sustainable building principles into a Westmorland and Furness design code supplementary planning document.	2026/27
10L	Community, Economy and Place	Explore the potential to incorporate additional energy efficiency policies (beyond NDMPs) within the draft Local Plan.	2028/29
11L26	Community, Economy and Place	Consider the impact of Climate, Nature and biodiversity within the evidence base, policies and site allocations for W&F Council draft local plan.	2028/29

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
12L	Community, Economy and Place	Embed strengthened SuDS policies within the emerging Local Plan, including defined design and maintenance standards aligned with CIRIA and national guidance, and achieve 100% compliance in all major planning approvals post-adoption as measured through planning application reviews.	2028/29
13L26	Community, Economy and Place	Warm Homes Social Housing Fund (Year 2 of 3) delivery of £2.5M fuel poverty and decarbonisation programme.	2026/27
14L	Community, Economy and Place	Promote the conversion of existing buildings and the re-use of brownfield land.	2026/27
15L	Community, Economy and Place	Ensure the design of new developments is resilient to extreme weather through the local plan policy.	2028/29
16L	Community, Economy and Place	Attend meetings with Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Cohort and the Agriculture and Climate Change network to share knowledge and learnings with local authorities across the UK to accelerate our progress towards net zero and develop skills benefitting the Climate and Nature team.	2026/27
17L26	Community, Economy and Place	Explore opportunities to develop a food partnership in Westmorland and Furness and assess demand for Right to Grow Sites.	2026/27
18L	Community, Economy and Place	Develop a system/ tool to assess the current housing stock in Westmorland and Furness, including assessing empty home.	2026/27
19L26	Innovation, Technology and Digital	Communicate about the Greening Businesses successes across Westmorland and Furness.	2026/27
22L	Cross-directorate	Support new low-carbon development of the marina village in Barrow.	2028/29
23L	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the Cumbria innovative Flood Resilience (CiFR) programme through working with communities.	2026/27
24L	Community, Economy and Place	Recruit an officer to lead on coastal flood forums (Coastal SIG and tactical meetings) within the council area to engage with the public on local coastal risk, to represent the Council, and keep our projects and concerns appraised on a national level.	2026/27
25L	Innovation, Technology and Digital	Deliver 4 Climate and Nature newsletters.	2025/26
26L25	Community, Economy and Place	Create a community wellbeing and nature hub and supporting cycling and walking infrastructure across Barrow, supported by the Brilliant Barrow Town Deal.	2026/27
28L25	Cross-directorate	Restore Grange-over-Sands lido and promenade.	2027/28

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
29L25	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver various flood defence interventions in and around Kendal to protect homes and businesses, supported by the European Regional Development Fund and Environment Agency.	2027/28
31L25	Community, Economy and Place	Embed Climate Change and the Net Zero target into the vision and measurable outcomes for the Westmorland and Furness Local Plan.	2026/27
32L25	Resources	Within the new volunteer policy, officers will be sign posted to Ecologically aware volunteering opportunities.	2026/27
33L25	Community, Economy and Place	Carry out saltmarsh restoration trials at Roa Island through the Our Future Coast Programme to improve and enhance its condition. This will improve carbon sequestration and provide a natural buffer and protect structures.	2027/28
34L25	Community, Economy and Place	Carry out a coastal study at Grange-over-Sands to understand the impact of climate change on the estuary and inland drainage.	2027/28
35L25	Community, Economy and Place	Develop a modelling coastal flooding adaptation for Walney Island.	2026/27
36L25	Public Health, Strategy and Community Wellbeing	Ensure the W&F Local Plan is subject to a climate change impact assessment and explore options to incorporate this within an Integrated Impact Assessment, including Sustainability Appraisal, Health Impact Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Climate Change Assessment.	2026/27

The way we travel

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
1T26	Community, Economy and Place; and Resources	Embed carbon awareness and low-carbon decision making into highways activities.	2026/27
2T	Community, Economy and Place	Development of the transport evidence based- for local transport plan and local plan	2026/27
3T26	Community, Economy and Place	Fleet Depots - installation of charging infrastructure at 6 depot sites.	2027/28
4T26	Resources	Implement the Fleet Decarbonisation and Replacement Strategy	2026/27
5T	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver on £4.3 Million LEVI funding for EV infrastructure.	2028/29
6T	Community, Economy and Place	Implement the 20MPH policy and deliver community supported schemes.	2026/27
7T	Community, Economy and Place; and Resources	Upgrade all streetlighting to LED and smart systems to reduce energy and for the benefit of dark skies.	2026/27
8T26	Resources	Promote the Vehicle Leasing Salary Sacrifice Scheme.	2026/27
9T	Resources	Continue to offer, promote and improve staff cycling to work schemes.	2026/27
10T	Resources	Deploy 4 x electric and 16 x self-charging hybrid pool cars.	2026/27
11T	Community, Economy and Place	Develop and deliver active travel routes/ improvements.	2029/2030
12T25	Community, Economy and Place	Create an active travel route connecting the River Kent to Kendal town centre as part of a Kendal town centre regeneration project supported by the Levelling Up Fund.	2027/28
13T25	Resources	Continue with installation of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil tanks at the main depots.	2026/27
14T26	Community, Economy and Place; and Resources	Continue to work with current contractors and supply chain to review and reduce carbon emissions associated with Highways maintenance and schemes, where contracts allow.	2026/27
15T	Community, Economy and Place	Promote patterns of development through the Local Plan that maximise opportunities for sustainable and active travel, through a combination of its spatial strategy, site allocations policies and infrastructure delivery plan.	2027/28
16T25	Resources	Deliver eco-driver training to staff using HVO fuelled fleet.	2026/27
17T26	Community, Economy and Place	LEVI Pilot - On-street chargepoints – 50 chargepoint sockets across 10 sites delivered by October 2026.	2026/27

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
18T	Innovation, Technology and Digital	Provide advice for residents and businesses on the EV infrastructure in the district	2026/27
19T26	Community, Economy and Place; and Resources	Maximise efficiency of Highways activities by promoting the reuse & recycling of materials where appropriate.	2026/27
20T26	Community, Economy and Place	LEVI Pilot - Pavement channels – 30 pavements channels to be installed by September 2026.	2026/27
21T26	Community, Economy and Place	LEVI Capital - Lot 1 On-Street – Works expected to commence by end of the calendar year with c. 20 sites delivered by end of 2026/27.	2026/27
23T26	Community, Economy and Place	EV Open day - Second annual EV open day to take place in 2026.	2026/27
24T26	Community, Economy and Place	LEVI Capital - Lot 2 Car Parks - Works expected to commence by end of the calendar year with c. 5 sites delivered by end of 2026/27.	2026/27

The way we use things

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
10U25	Community, Economy and Place	Hold community take-back events for unwanted daily living aids such as shower chairs and commodes, to be reused to help others in need.	2026/27
11U	Community, Economy and Place	Create a baseline of existing circular economy initiatives in Westmorland and Furness.	2026/27
12U	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the Waste Change Programme to improve recycling rates, with the aim of achieving a 60% recycling rate by 2030.	2029/30
14U	Community, Economy and Place	Run 5 public engagement events on waste reduction to encourage circular economy practices and explore innovative ways to communicate to residents.	2026/27
15U	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the communications and engagement plan to support the Waste Change Programme with messaging on waste reduction, reuse and recycling.	2026/27
17U26	Community, Economy and Place	Apply to the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund - Food Systems, alongside Futureproof Cumbria, Cumberland Council and Food Futures in North Lancashire.	2026/27
18U25	Community, Economy and Place	Introduce a corporate policy to phase out single-use plastics and promote sustainable alternatives.	2026/27
19U25	Community, Economy and Place	Develop a communication campaign to support the waste strategy with messaging on waste reduction, reuse and recycling.	2026/27
21U25	Innovation, Technology and Digital	Deliver a digital first approach that reduces paper use year on year, modernises business processes, and cuts the carbon impact of service delivery. (This includes digitising high volume transactions, reducing printing and monitoring the carbon impact of digital and ICT operations).	2025/26
4U26	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the bottled milk pilot at South Lakeland House and engage the Ecologically Aware Action Group to expand across offices.	2026/27
5U	Community, Economy and Place	Explore how carbon reduction and circular economy principles can be integrated into the draft Local Plan.	2027/28
6U	Community, Economy and Place	Implement optimised waste vehicle collection routes.	2027/28
7U	Community, Economy and Place	Develop a Cumbria-wide waste reduction action plan for the hosted waste service.	2026/27
8U	Community, Economy and Place	Procure a consultant to identify the best use of recyclable material in Westmorland and Furness and map existing material flows.	2027/28
1U26	Community, Economy and Place	Trial HVO waste trucks in Westmorland and Furness.	2026/27

The way we work

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
1W	Resources	Implement the Carbon Management Strategy for decarbonising the Council estate.	2029/30
2W25	Resources	Through the PSDS fund, install air source heat pumps in 4 buildings.	2026/27
3W	Resources	Deliver the LED lighting programme.	2026/27
4W26	Community, Economy and Place	Explore and apply for funding opportunities to support the development of green library projects.	2026/27
5W26	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver towards the Council's Inclusive and Green Growth Economic Strategy. The strategy emphasises sustainable growth and achieving net zero emissions by 2037, promoting clean energy, business decarbonisation and harnessing our natural capital.	2035/36
6W26	Community, Economy and Place	Explore opportunities to offer plant-based food options at all Council events.	2026/27
7W	Community, Economy and Place	Develop a Carbon Literacy programme for all staff, aiming to be silver accredited by the end of 2027.	2026/27
8W26	Community, Economy and Place	Support the Council's Ecologically Aware Action Group to support climate and nature-friendly staff behaviour across the organisation.	2026/27
9W	Community, Economy and Place	Develop plans to decarbonise all swimming pools and support leisure facilities to implement necessary measures by 2037.	2026/27
10W25	Community, Economy and Place	Embed the principles of the Green Libraries Framework and environment priority of the Library Strategy at libraries across Westmorland and Furness.	2026/27
11W	Community, Economy and Place	Produce a Climate and Nature impact assessment tool which will be implemented for council projects, reports and key decisions.	2027/28
12W	Cross-directorate	Integrate climate and nature ambitions into the delivery of government funding.	2026/27
13W	Community, Economy and Place	Identify, monitor, and secure external funding opportunities to support delivery of climate and environmental related actions.	2026/27
14W26	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the Greening Businesses Scheme by working with Cumbria Business Environment Network to provide free carbon audits to 20 local businesses (SMEs).	2026/27
15W26	Community, Economy and Place	Produce a full carbon baseline (Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions) for all goods and services provided by the Council from 2023/24 to 2026/27.	2026/27
16W	Resources	Encourage and monitor the completion of the Climate Change Core Essential Learning module for all council staff.	2028/29

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
17W	Resources	Create a live source digital dashboard enabling the Council to monitor its own carbon emissions.	2026/27
18W	Cross-directorate	Ensure that Climate metrics are integrated into the service plan templates as part of Performance Management Framework.	2026/27
20W	Resources	Develop a cross-departmental working group to devise a plan to reduce scope 3 emissions from procurement.	2028/29
21W	Resources	Following the completion of the Carbon Emissions Baseline - consider the impact of the same on the goods and services and agree next steps, including revision of strategy, policy and process.	2029/30
24W	Cross-directorate	Work with partners, including the Land and Nature Skills Service, Enterprising Cumbria and the economic growth board towards increasing green skills and green jobs.	2029/30
25W	Community, Economy and Place	Publish a Sustainable Events Guide to set out the council's vision to running sustainable events. Establish a sustainable framework criteria for events of over 250 people which all organisers will have to meet.	2026/27
26W25	Community, Economy and Place	Incorporate Green Social Prescribing into funding programme to promote health and environmental outcomes.	2026/27
27W26	Community, Economy and Place	Continue supporting ZCCP to deliver its programme in W&F, driving coordinated climate action, engagement, and progress towards net-zero.	2026/27
28W	Cross-directorate	Encourage inward investment, business growth and the delivery of new commercial and residential developments that can provide inclusive, green and sustainable growth. This includes investment in innovative and green industry sectors such as clean and renewable energy.	2027/28
29W	Cross-directorate	Support the delivery of the Borderlands Energy Investment Programme.	2029/30
30W	Children's Services	All schools will develop and release a Climate Change Action Plan.	2026/27
32W	Community, Economy and Place	Work alongside Cumbria Tourism in line with the Destination Management Plan, to develop sustainable tourism product offers to the visitor market.	2028/29
33W26	Community, Economy and Place	Integrate W&F Council's scope of influence into the area wide emissions dashboard.	2026/27
35W	Community, Economy and Place	Support partners in engaging with the public, local schools and youth organisation on the importance of biodiversity and climate change.	2026/27

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
37W	Community, Economy and Place	Continue to support local community groups and partnerships with funding from the 2023 Climate and Nature Partnership Fund.	2026/27
38W26	Community, Economy and Place	Be an active partner in delivering evidence-based recommendations from the Climate Assembly, shaping local planning policies on home energy efficiency and renewable energy across Cumbria and Lancaster.	2025/26
39W	Community, Economy and Place	Engage with Parish and Town Council's to ensure joined up initiatives for decarbonisation. For example, developing a Climate Change Parish and Town Council guidance.	2027/28
40W	Community, Economy and Place	Ongoing engagement with the public and community groups on climate mitigation and adaptation actions and flood risk.	2026/27
42W	Community, Economy and Place	Continue to encourage Climate Change reading groups and promote to younger audiences.	2026/27
43W	Community, Economy and Place	Utilise Council-owned public buildings to engage residents on positive climate messages.	2026/27
44W	Cross-directorate	Integrate low carbon energy and biodiversity into the work of Team Barrow	
46W25	Resources	Establish an annual update on the Carbon Management Strategy.	2026/27
48W25	Community, Economy and Place	Develop and implement a Climate Impact Assessment tool for the Council decision and grant application.	2027/28
49W25	Community, Economy and Place	Building on the community and sustainability hubs at libraries, provide events and activities that encourage engagement with climate and environment issues and communities working together e.g. harvest events and climate cafes.	2026/27
50W25	Community, Economy and Place	Work with procurement and suppliers to explore the use of sustainable alternatives to library stock and supplies and use recycled/recyclable materials for all library events and activities.	2026/27
51W26	Community, Economy and Place	Work with the Cumbria Combined Authority, partners and business representative groups to support businesses across all sectors to reduce their carbon emissions.	2029/30
54W25	Resources	Develop and implement a governance framework to monitor and optimise energy efficiency data storage and processing across WFC within Fabric.	2026/27

The way we enhance nature

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
1N26	Community, Economy and Place	Explore opportunities to transition to permanent and climate resilient alternatives to bedding plants across parks and urban spaces.	2027/28
2N	Community, Economy and Place	Monitor Council-led maintenance plans for parks, leisure pitches, cemeteries to support sustainable ground maintenance practices.	2026/27
3N	Community, Economy and Place	Provide evidence to include green and blue infrastructure policies into the development of the draft Local Plan.	2026/27
4N	Community, Economy and Place	Develop a tree strategy to support the internal council teams, partners, residents and landowners with tree planting, management, and maintenance.	2025/26
5N26	Community, Economy and Place	Explore approaches to holistic management and planning for Council owned open spaces	2028/29
6N26	Community, Economy and Place	Ensure all the land and assets are accurately mapped on a GIS system to improve management.	2028/29
7N25	Community, Economy and Place	Work with the Climate and Natural Environment team to link the One Tree per Resident webpage and the planning Tree pages so that the habitat creation and maintenance and management sides of trees are more closely linked.	2026/27
8N	Community, Economy and Place	Engage with communities to utilise parks, verges, cemeteries and open spaces to encourage land management practices that offer co-benefits to people, nature and carbon sequestration.	2026/27
9N26	Community, Economy and Place	Use library outside space at Grange-over-Sands for story trails and community gardens.	2026/27
10N25	Community, Economy and Place	Deliver the One Tree per Resident project in partnership with residents, community groups, partners and private landowners, planting one tree or one metre of hedge equivalent with support from internal council teams, including Arboriculture.	2027/28
11N25	Community, Economy and Place	Explore and develop nature-based solutions to enhance carbon sequestration and strengthen climate adaptation.	2026/27
12N25	Community, Economy and Place	Engage with communities to develop maintenance plans for cemeteries and closed churchyards to improve nature and wildlife.	2027/28
13N25	Community, Economy and Place	Create community gardens on library grounds across Westmorland and Furness to support biodiversity and engagement with nature.	2027/28
14N25	Community, Economy and Place	Hold workshops for community sport groups and privately owned sports grounds to raise awareness of sustainable pitch management.	2027/28

ID	Directorate	Action	Timescale
15N26	Community, Economy and Place	Build awareness of soil health and sustainable land management by actively engaging communities, farmers/land managers, and stakeholders (NGOs / research partners) through the EU Soilstice Project, fostering strong partnerships at local and European levels.	2027/28
16N26	Community, Economy and Place	Co-design a Territorial Management Agreement (TMA) for soil conservation as part of the EU Soilstice Project, working collaboratively with local farmers/land managers and both regional and EU stakeholders to ensure shared ownership and practical relevance.	2028/29
17N26	Community, Economy and Place	Implement and evaluate pilot sites for Territorial Management Agreements developed through the EU Soilstice Project, to demonstrate good practice to support wider public uptake and adoption for long-term soil conservation.	2029/30

Westmorland & Furness Council

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