



The Council are committed to delivering a Net Zero Neighbourhood in Hillfields, with the goal of helping our citizens live in healthier, more sustainable homes and communities.

Whilst this plan provides a wide range of neighbourhood specific interventions that have been identified through workshops, consultation and insight from Coventry City Council and a range of community and social housing groups, we want to emphasise the need and importance of further developing on this initial plan. Central to this will be the collaboration and co-creation with key groups and communities within Hillfields, which we intend to start later this Spring

This initial plan was also a key enabler to accessing additional funding, which will enable us to effectively work with the community in the development of the Hillfields Net Zero Neighbourhood

For more information, please get in touch using HillfieldsNZN@Coventry.gov.uk



Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan

Hillfields | Coventry City Council

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002	28/10/2024	Final version	R Bi A Cross	L Strickland	L Strickland
003	18/12/2024	Update to walkable neighbourhood analysis	R Bi A Cross	L Strickland	L Strickland

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Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	4
<u>Understanding the Local Area</u>	7
• <u>Social, built environment, and infrastructure context</u>	8
• <u>Walkable neighbourhoods analysis</u>	18
<u>Portfolio of Interventions</u>	26
• <u>Interventions summary: Built environment</u>	30
• <u>Interventions summary: Low carbon mobility</u>	35
• <u>Interventions summary: Natural environment</u>	39
• <u>Interventions summary: Community engagement</u>	43
• <u>Mapping of interventions to WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework</u>	46
<u>Community Engagement Approach</u>	52
<u>Capital Investment Approach</u>	63
• <u>Capital Investment Plan: Priority 1</u>	65
• <u>Capital Investment Plan: Priority 2</u>	72
<u>Project Delivery Approach</u>	75
<u>Conclusion</u>	90



Introduction



Supporting statements

Tackling the causes and consequences is a key priority for Coventry City Council, and central to the delivery of the One Coventry Plan. We have just published our new Climate Change Strategy 2024-2030 which outlines the Council's ambitions to address the climate and nature emergencies. The Strategy sets out the challenges and opportunities to creating a more sustainable city through five key pathways: Adaptation and resilience, Route to net zero, A circular economy, Fairer green futures, and Nature.

Our plans to develop a first Net Zero Neighbourhood in Hillfields is a priority action within our Strategy Action Plan. The project will help to shape what we want from our neighbourhoods of the future, creating energy efficient warm homes and greener more climate resilient neighbourhoods. It gives us a fantastic opportunity to develop a new model to lever investment and deliver transformational change at scale to benefit local people.

The Council are excited to further develop this programme in Hillfields, ensuring community co-design and co-delivery is at the heart of what we do; collaborating with local organisations and residents to improve lives, but also allowing us to better understand the challenges, opportunities, innovations and learnings that we can then apply to net zero neighbourhoods elsewhere in the city.

Rhian Palmer, Strategic Lead, Coventry City Council

We've been delighted to work with Coventry City Council on this Net Zero Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Hillfields area. In the context of the climate crisis, and WMCA's drive to achieve Net Zero across the region by 2041, the opportunity for Net Zero Neighbourhoods to drive building-level retrofit, low carbon mobility, neighbourhood regeneration and green spaces through the means of community engagement and co-design is an exciting one. This programme support Coventry's Climate Change Strategy ambitions to tackle climate and natural emergencies by encouraging a holistic approach to resilience to be an integral part of reducing carbon emissions.

Enabling such change through the demonstrator project in Hillfields should provide a template for rolling out the step-change needed across the region. We believe that taking a local approach is crucial for accelerating the transition to Net Zero, something we advocated for in the publication [A Place Based Approach to Net Zero](#) on behalf of the Net Zero Infrastructure Industry Coalition in 2021.

As we've worked with Coventry City Council to assess the range of interventions at the heart of this plan, it's clear that the proposals are credible, visionary and exciting, scalable and crucially, can be led in partnership with the community itself for maximum impact.

Luke Strickland, Net Zero Lead, Mott MacDonald



Introduction

What is a net zero neighbourhood?

A net zero neighbourhood is defined by the West Midlands Combined Authority Area (WMCA) as a community where:

- energy needs are reduced through demand reduction measures
- remaining energy needs for transport, heat and power are met through decarbonised energy sources
- and wider measures are taken to create a sustainable place to live

The WMCA Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator programme provides funding to chosen neighbourhoods as part of its strategy to cut regional carbon emissions to net zero by 2041, a key focus of which is the need to retrofit residential properties. The demonstrator programme is designed to identify a small cohort of neighbourhoods across the West Midlands Combined Authority area where a new approach to creating low carbon energy communities can be explored.

The purpose of this plan

This Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan (NZNP) presents a wide range of neighbourhood specific interventions that have been identified through workshops, consultation and insight from Coventry City Council and a range of community and social housing groups. The elements range from immediate and short-term localised actions, to longer term wider solutions around wide scale retrofit of homes.

Following a review of the characteristics of the area in the Understanding the local area section, this plan focuses on developing interventions the following areas

- Built Environment
- Low carbon mobility
- Natural Environment
- Community growth and engagement

The plan is divided into the following sections:

Community Engagement Plan

This plan will support Coventry City Council with the development of a communications and engagement plan To support and develop the project delivery phases to gain buy-in and enable future activity. The approach to this has been developed through a series of workshops and discussions with community groups.

Capital Investment Plan

This section details the overall investment opportunity and potential funding streams in the Net Zero Neighbourhood area and identifies immediate investment opportunities which can be implemented to help the neighbourhood meet Net Zero.

The priority of this plan is domestic emissions due to these accounting for the majority of Coventry's emissions, but other interventions and funding routes for more holistic interventions are included.

Project Delivery Plan

This plan outlines the initial phases of delivery for the Net Zero Neighbourhood and the funding streams that align with the interventions outlined in the Capital Investment Plan. Detail is provided on the indicative activities that would be funded by the WMCA programme, as well as opportunities for funding from partners.

Hillfields as a demonstrator scheme

The Hillfields neighbourhood is a vibrant community, home to a diverse population and a variety of local businesses and services, including the Hillfields Health Centre and St. Peter's Church, reflecting its ongoing evolution and resilience.

We believe Hillfields would be an excellent location for the NZN programme due to the opportunities available in Coventry for collaboration with the Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON, the development of the Very Light Rail (VLR) scheme and the energy for improvement seen through engagement with community groups and their existing initiatives. Whilst Hillfields has issues with anti-social behaviour (ASB), high levels of fuel poverty and deprivation, the community are working hard to improve the area and increase sustainability, making them an ideal candidate for WMCA funding.

The Net Zero Neighbourhood design priorities



Understanding the Local Area





**Social, built
environment, and
infrastructure
context**

Understanding the Local Area

Community overview – demographics and community assets

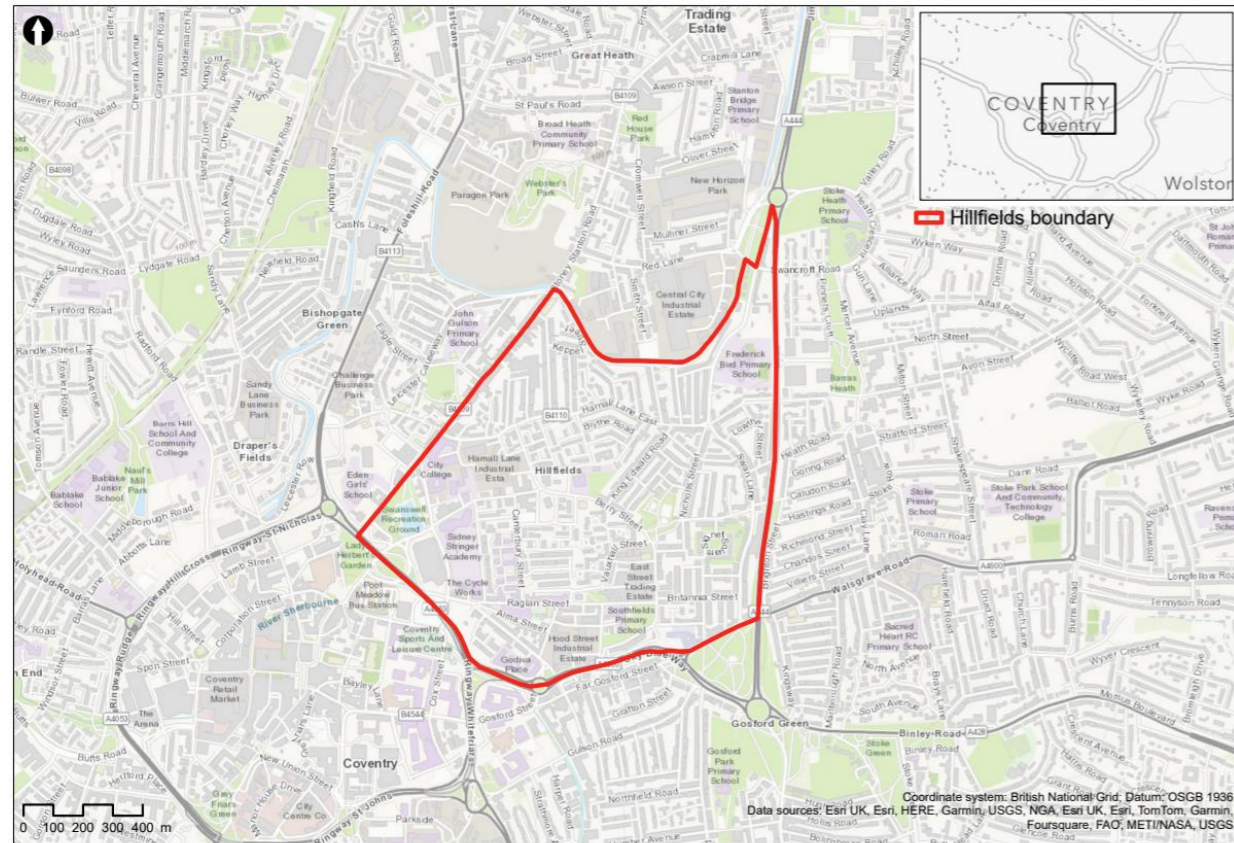


Figure 1: Satellite image of Hillfields with Hillfields boundary used throughout this plan

Hillfields, located in Coventry, is steeped in rich history and has undergone significant transformations over the years. It sits within the Council’s St Michael’s ward. Hillfields is a vibrant community, home to a diverse population and a variety of local businesses and services, including the Hillfields Health Centre and St. Peter’s Church, reflecting its ongoing evolution and resilience.

Hillfields has a population of approximately 13,400, according to the ONS Census 2021. It is a very ethnically diverse area, with some of the larger ethnic groups being Asian/Asian British (34%), White (33%) and Black/Black British/Black Caribbean/Black African (21%). There is a predominantly Muslim and Christian population that reside in this area. These figures vary a significant amount from those for the wider city of Coventry.

There is a high proportion of households that do not speak English as a first language. The most prominent languages after English are Polish and Punjabi.

The population is relatively young, with the percentage of adults between the ages of 18-64 being above the national average. Due to the proximity of the area to Coventry University, 33.7% of people aged 16 years and over in Hillfields MSOA are full-time students according to the National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC).

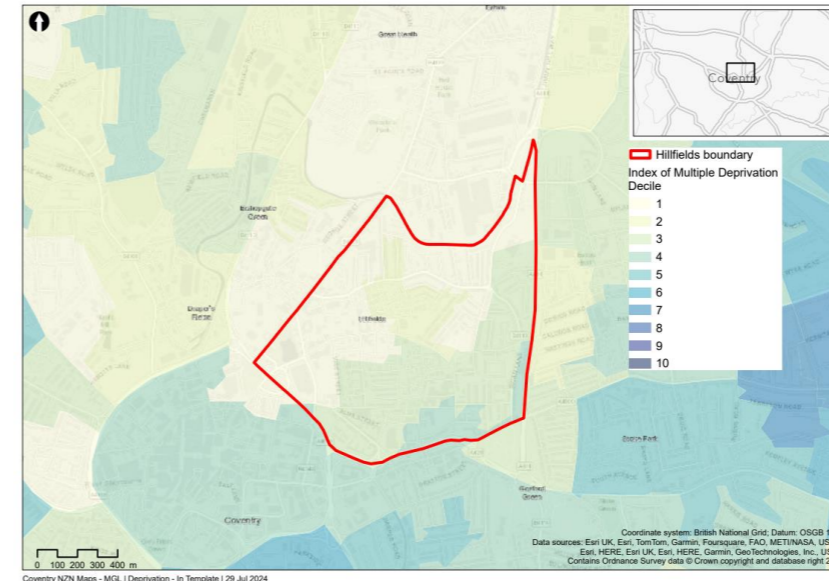


Figure 2: Map displaying Index of Multiple Deprivation decile distribution across Hillfields

There are high rates of fuel poverty within Hillfields with 3,879 properties estimated to be in areas of >30% fuel poverty bands, with the remaining 906 estimated to be in fuel bands 20-25%. There is a general lower level of health within the area. There are more emergency hospital admissions in Hillfields across all age groups in comparison to the national average. Hillfields is also amongst the neighbourhoods with the lowest life expectancy in Coventry.

The area consists of a range of community assets with a few of the main ones listed below.

- Hillfields Square
- Pool Meadow bus station – in close proximity to the south of Hillfields
- Swanswell Park and Pool
- Coventry College
- Young People’s Centre and the Positive Youth Foundation on Virginia Road

There is also a range of places of worship, including churches, mosques and temples to accommodate the diverse community that reside in Hillfields. The Council’s Public Health team are closely working with local community hubs (e.g., places of worship and health centres) to encourage uptake of health services in the community. In addition to this, the Council’s Family Hub and Library already facilitate a wide range of community outreach services around health, education and inclusion.

These facilities can be utilised in the development of the NZNP, to help raise awareness and provide educational services regarding sustainability and net zero development.

Approximately 45% of the population who are over 16 hold a level 1, 2 or 3 qualification. The average income is estimated to be £29,000 per household (2020). According to 2021 census data there is around 4,400 households in Hillfields, of which 32% are single person households and 29% are households that consist of 4 or more people. The majority of Hillfields falls within the 4 lowest ranking deciles of the indices of multiple deprivation (Figure 2). These factors have a negative impact on the ability of local residents to fund energy efficiency improvements/retrofit without additional financial support being available, creating a lack in the “able to pay” market in Hillfields.

Understanding the Local Area

Community groups and current behaviours

There is a range of community groups present in Hillfields, whose involvement and leadership will be vital for delivering the Net Zero Neighbourhood plan successfully. These include:

- **WATCH: Working Actively to Change Hillfields Community Centre** - a charity which supports people facing disadvantages, social exclusion and deprivation. The aim of this community centre is to help the local community, with a focus on people from ethnic minority backgrounds. The group also hosts Hillz FM, a local community ran radio station in Hillfields.
- **Hope Community Projects** - have been running outreach work in Hillfields since 2016. The group helps children, parents and their wider family network to ensure the family can realise their full potential. This includes establishing a GrubHub in 2020, which offers a discounted food parcel which contains approximately £20 worth of food for a cost of a membership fee (£4/week).
- **St Peter's Church** - work close with other community groups to host a range of sessions/activities for the locals of Hillfields. Some activities carried out by the group include free breakfast and lunch meals, English classes and regular community events in collaboration with WATCH. The group are hoping to expand their facilities to better accommodate the needs of the community.
- **Coventry Muslim Forum** - a group within the community who act as a voice on behalf of the Muslim community and other groups within the area. In addition to this, the group offer a range of services to the community.
- **Hillfields young people's centre** – home to support activities for young people including the positive youth foundation which provides programmes to support young people to thrive, regardless of the challenges they face



The gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy for males in Hillfields is 21.1 years compared to 16.1 for Coventry overall; and for females, 28.4 years compared to 20.3 years.

Compared to Coventry average, Hillfields has:

- More emergency hospital admissions at all ages are seen.
- More emergency hospital admissions for cardiovascular disease
- More hospital stays for alcohol-related harm
- More dying from respiratory disease and coronary heart disease (in all age groups)

Some areas in Harmony have a high proportion of households that do not speak English as a first language. The most prominent languages after English in the Harmony area are Polish (3.5%) and Panjabi (2.5%) and Romanian (2.1%). In Hillfields, 25% of households have no members with English as a first language. There are many other languages spoken in Hillfields, and it recommended that further mapping of these is carried out at the next stage that may not be currently be available using public data.

Hillfields has faced challenges with crime, particularly with gang activity and violent crimes. Efforts to combat these issues are ongoing, with law enforcement agencies and community programs working to reduce violence. Groups have worked closely with the youth of the area to inspire them and deter them from adopting a lifestyle which promotes crime. This is likely to create challenges surrounding community, natural environment and active travel interventions. A lack a safety may deter people away from using green spaces and adopting active travel as a mode of transport.

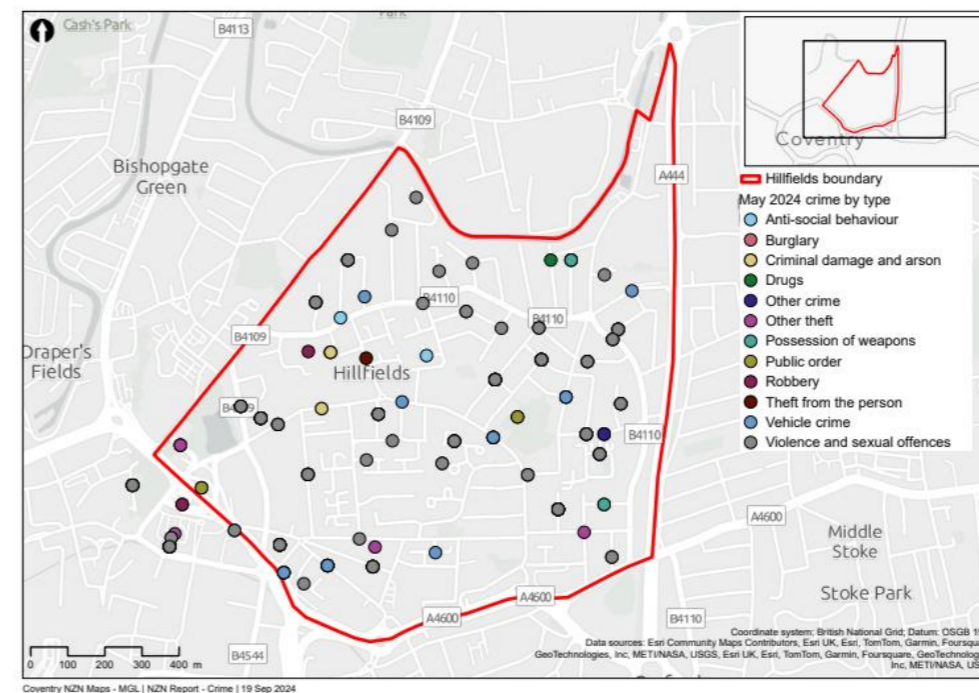


Figure 3: Reported crime incidents across Hillfields, by type of crime (May, 2024)

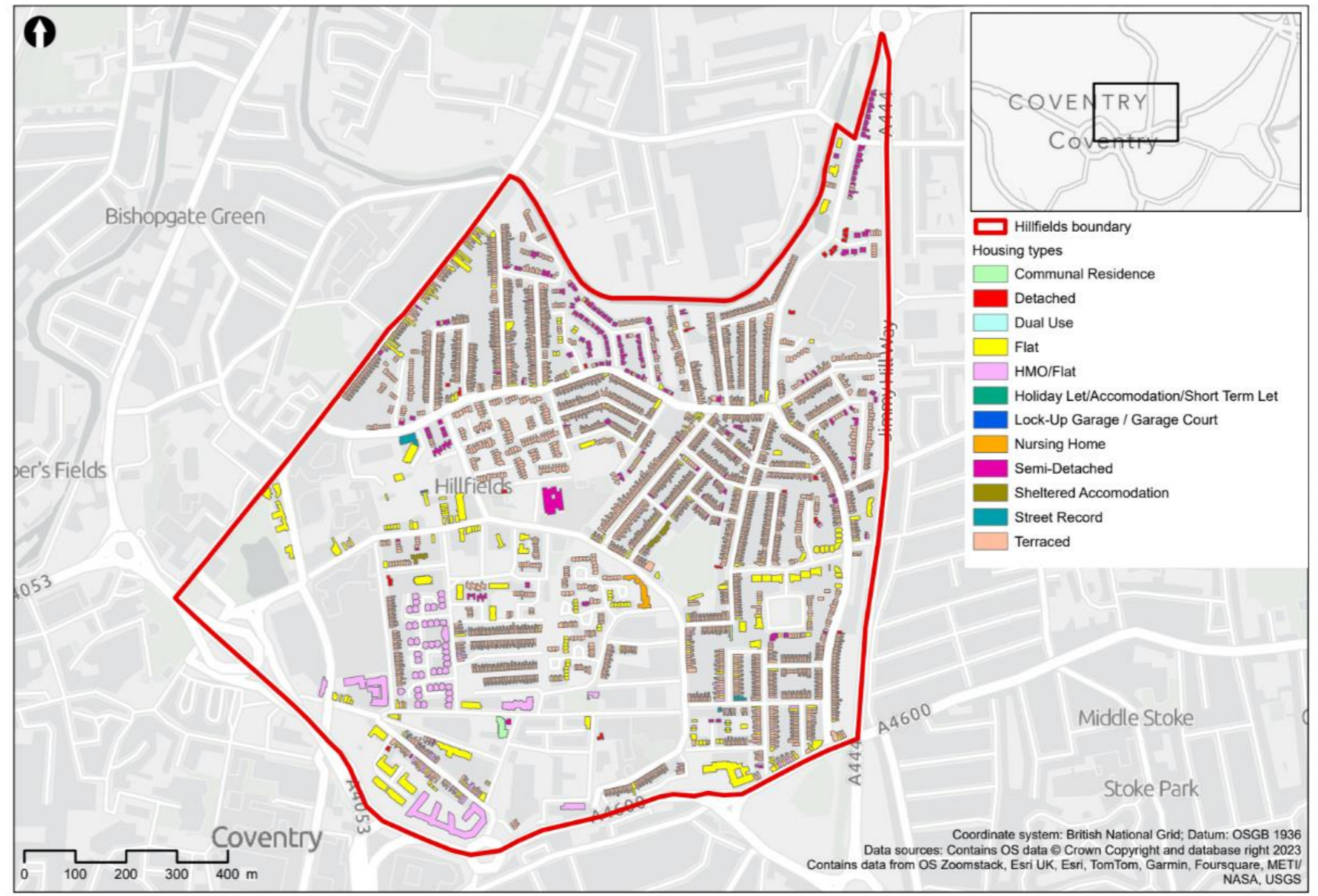
Understanding the Local Area

Building stock characteristics

There are an estimated 7,705 properties in Hillfields which includes buildings such as care homes, houses of multiple occupancy, sheltered accommodation and communal residences based on OS mastermap data.

The housing stock is predominantly terraced housing (2,865), with a small portion of semi-detached properties to the north and north-east of the area. Most the housing dates back to 1900-1929.

Figure 4 illustrates the varying domestic property types in Hillfields. Whilst the majority of properties are terraced, there are some self contained flats and semi-detached homes.



Coventry NZN Maps - TGY | Hillfields_HousingType_Recategorize | 09 Aug 2024

Figure 4: Housing types in Hillfields

Understanding the Local Area

Building stock characteristics

Many of the houses have solid, uninsulated walls, making retrofit more expensive than if properties had cavity walls. The EPC ratings for the properties in Hillfields can be found in the table below and have been calculated using ArcGIS and data from OS Address Based premium and EPC registers. Where data is missing, the EPC value was calculated using statistical algorithms to give a representation of the building characteristics in Hillfields as a whole. These values are not to be interpreted as verbatim.

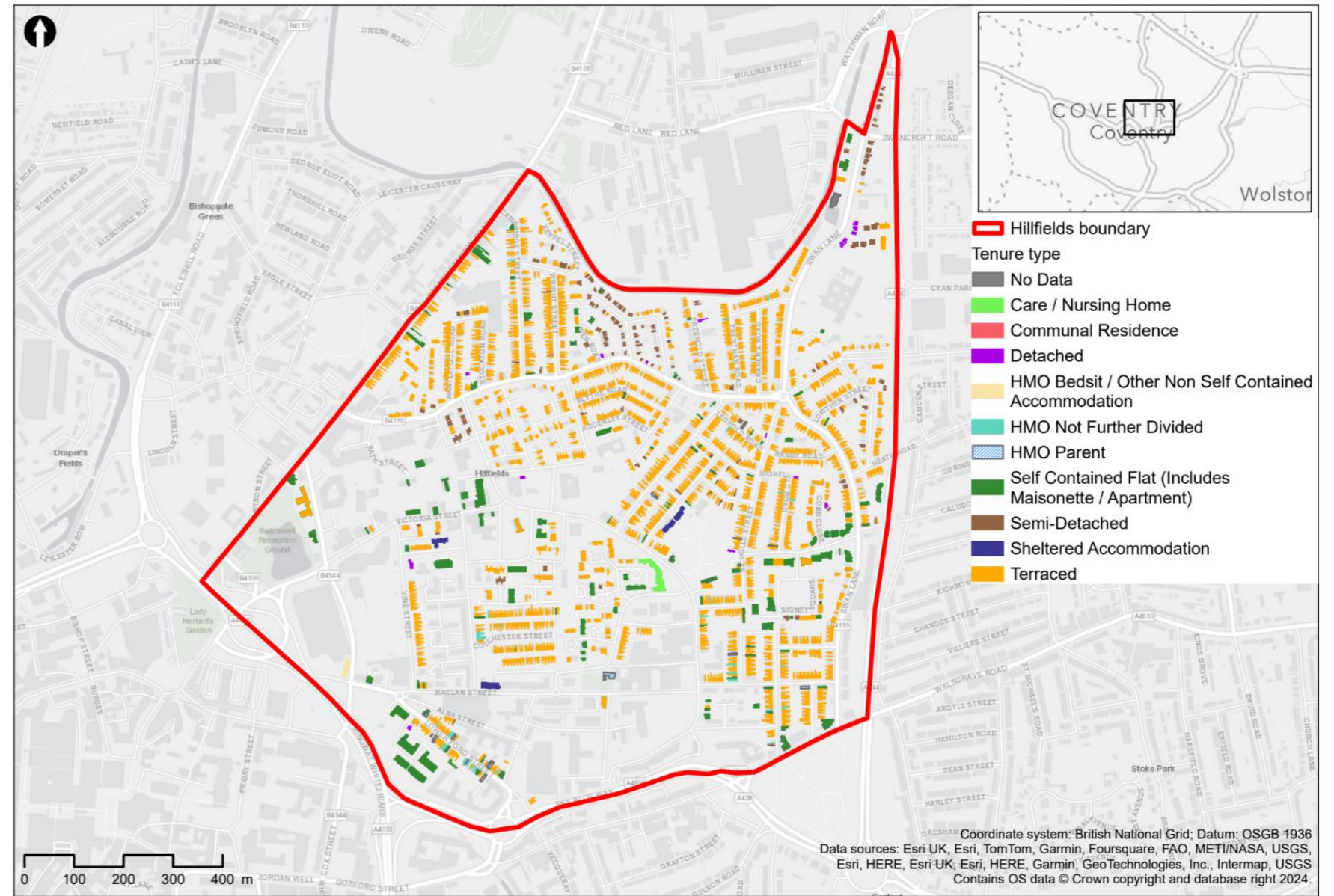
The number of properties in this EPC set differs from the number of households identified by the 2021 Census data as it includes a wider spread of property types, as shown in Figure 5. Census data is based on population, whereas our analysis utilised special datasets.

The Council has already conducted desktop analysis which assessed the potential suitability of insulation for properties. This information can be used as a basis when implementing retrofit interventions.

Table 1: EPC ratings for houses and flats in Hillfields

EPC Rating	Number of properties	Percentage (%)
A	10	0.1
B	632	8.5
C	2,734	36.7
D	3,056	41
E	882	11.8
F	115	1.5
G	23	0.3
Total	7,452	100

The area benefits from a number of schools across Hillfields, which will be heavily integrated into all areas the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan.



Coventry NZN Maps - MGL | NZN Report - Tenure Type | 11 Oct 2024

Figure 5: Hillfields housing types

Understanding the Local Area

Domestic Tenure Types

There is a mix of tenure types in Hillfields, with most being either social rented or private rented. When retrofit interventions are carried out it will be vital to collaborate with both tenants and landlords. Engagement with landlords is something that will have to be navigated carefully to reach desired outcomes. This adds a level of complexity with programme delivery due to having increased parties of interest.

Figure 7 illustrates the distribution of tenancy types in Hillfields by % per output area. The majority of homes in Hillfields are private rented, which can be seen to be concentrated in the south and south east of Hillfields. Homes owned with a mortgage are predominantly to the North of Hillfields. Different channels of engagement will need to be used for differing tenure types

The Council will ensure that the delivery of the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan will work with all housing tenures using appropriate channels. This could include a landlord forum for the private rented sector and Citizen Housing to address social housing.

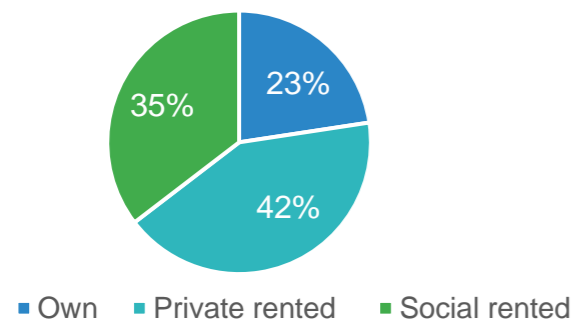


Figure 6: Tenure mix in Hillfields (ONS, 2021)

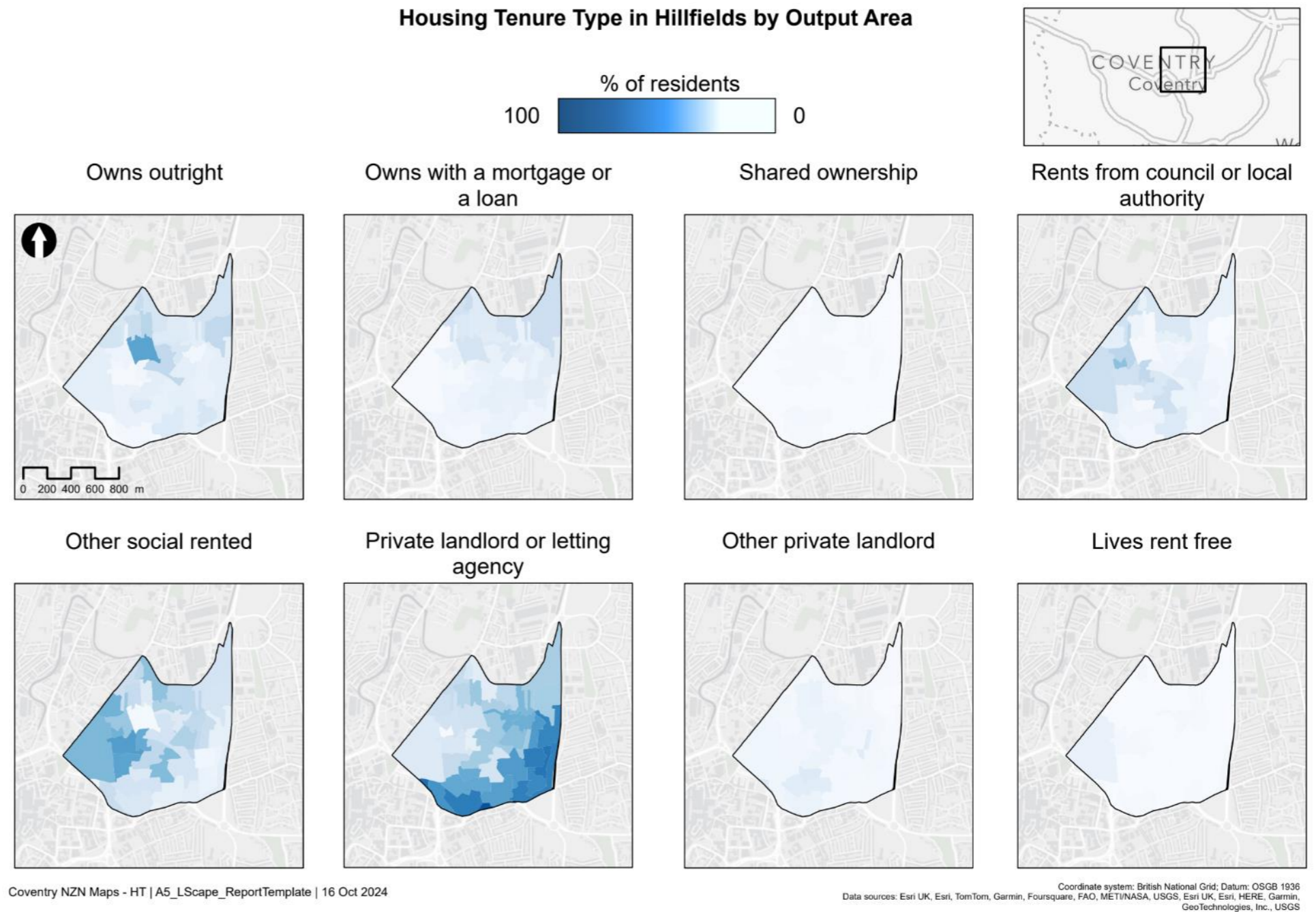


Figure 7: Housing tenure types in Hillfields by output area

Understanding the Local Area

Infrastructure

Electrical Infrastructure

Hillfields contains a primary substation as well as a Western Power Distribution transformer. The substation is supplied by 33KV cables through the south west of Hillfields running from the Coventry Central bulk supply point. Additional cabling is located just outside the north east of Hillfields. The electrical infrastructure is an essential consideration when designing potential locations for car park solar and EV chargers.

Total remaining capacity for the existing infrastructure as well as the location of heatline pipes in the area are not public information and should be explored at the next stage of design.

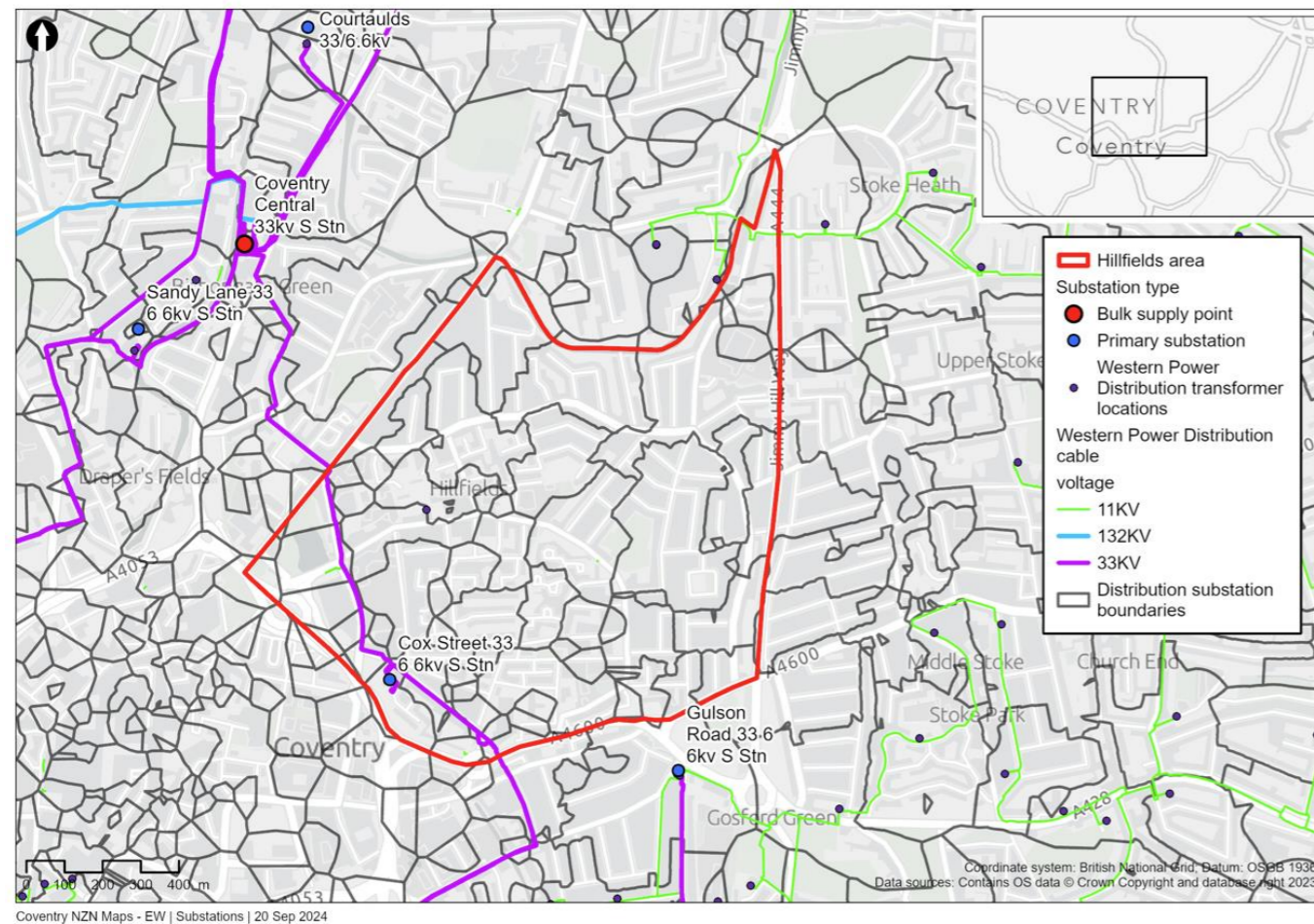


Figure 8: Substations and major electrical infrastructure in Hillfields

Heat Infrastructure

In 2020, WSP produced the Heat Network Mapping and Master Planning Study¹. This study assessed the opportunity of developing a heat network in Coventry. Existing heat networks coverage was mapped along with potential expansion areas. Hillfields was identified as a suitable area, taking priority over other areas due to fuel poverty, energy demands and air quality.

Since then, further work has been carried out on additional heat zoning opportunities. Arcadis produced the Heat Network Zoning Opportunity Report² on behalf of Coventry City Council. Five heat network zones were identified in Coventry, one being in the City Centre which covers part of Hillfields. A large portion of the heat for this network will be provided from the existing energy from waste plant. The remainder will be sourced from an additional energy centre that will need to be developed. 213 buildings have been identified as buildings which will be required to connect due to their high heat demands, a few of which are located in Hillfields. The buildings located in Hillfields are non-domestic buildings, including schools and retail buildings.

Coventry City Council will be applying for HNDU funding that will assess the techno-economic feasibility of a heat network solution in Hillfields. The studies mentioned above can serve as a basis, which can be built upon to develop an assessment of the feasibility of a heat network within the area. The development of a heat network within Hillfields will be a core element in tackling carbon emissions and navigating the area towards truly adopting the value of being a net zero neighbourhood.

1 Heat Network Mapping and Master planning Study, WSP (2020)
2 Heat Network Zoning Opportunity Report, Arcadis (2024)

Understanding the Local Area

Transport infrastructure - overview

Hillfields is a well-connected neighbourhood which has access to the following transport assets:

- **Coventry Rail Station:** located less than 2 miles from Hillfields and provides connections to several cities/towns including Birmingham, Manchester and London.
- **Bus services:** connections to Coventry City Centre and Pool Meadow Bus Station, as well as access to Willenhall, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire and Warwick.
- **Very Light Rail (VLR):** currently in development and will run from Warwick Road (near Coventry Rail Station) to Millennium Place, the latter of which is closely located to Hillfields. VLR will act as a faster and cheaper alternative to traditional tram systems.
- **Cycle routes:** Coventry has a range of cycle routes including segregated routes and secondary routes. Hillfields is served by Cycle Route 2, part of which is free of traffic along the canal towpath, to the north. There is also Cycle Route 3, which runs through the centre of Hillfields and provides access to the City Centre, Henley Green and Potters Green. As Route 3 provides a good connection to City Centre, the residents of Hillfields will be able to benefit from the additional cycle routes that serve the City Centre area.

Travel behaviours

The following information provides a brief insight into some of the travel behaviours of the residents of Hillfields:

- 11% of the working population in Hillfields travel to work on foot
- A fifth work from home
- Around half travel to a place of work which is located less than 10km from their homes
- A third travel to work by bus
- Approximately 50% of households do not own a car or van

The findings above suggest a relatively sustainable approach for travel is adopted by the residents of Hillfields. There is an opportunity to develop active travel initiatives across Hillfields and the NZNP will work on enhancing the transport environment to further support residents in adopting sustainable behaviours when travelling.

Existing initiatives

- Coventry Cycle Centre is a charity that provides cycle repairs on Stoney Stanton Road and Motorvate at the former city farm site.
- Cycle hire docks at Coventry College and Far Gosford Street, WMCA are keen to expand on this scheme.
- Colchester Street and Winchester Street are already closed to through traffic.



Understanding the Local Area

Natural environment

The Hillfields area benefits from small pockets of green spaces including Swanswell Park and Pool and Primrose Hill Park. The northern boundary of the area meets with Coventry Canal. There are towpaths along the canal, which can be used by cyclists and pedestrians, however regular upkeep and maintenance of this area is required for the locals to be able to maximise the use of these. The vegetation along the towpaths can begin to overhang, which could create an obstacle for cyclists and may deter individuals from wanting to use the path. Heading west along the canal towpath will bring you to the Coventry Canal Basin which sits just north of Coventry City Centre. This serves as a good link between northern Hillfields and the city centre.



Primrose Hill



Swanswell Pool

Hillfields is an area that does not boast of many natural assets and could greatly benefit from enhancements of its natural environment. Improvement of the natural environment could lead to the following benefits:

- **Environmental benefits:** improved ecological balance through a regulated climate, better support for biodiversity and improved air and water quality.
- **Health and wellbeing:** improved access to natural spaces for the residents of Hillfields which will promote physical and mental health by offering recreational opportunities and reducing stress.
- **Resilience:** the enhancements could provide the area with extra resilience to natural disasters such as floods and storms which are likely to become more regular events due to climate change. Heatwaves are also likely to become more frequent and increasing greenspace can help to reduce the urban heat island effect.

Hillfields has some brownfield sites that could undergo development to help support the objective of enhancing the natural environment.

Citizen Housing also own sections of land across the area, which could be utilised for natural environment and community interventions under an agreement with the organisation.

With climate change occurring and the likelihood of flooding in the UK increasing, it is important to consider the potential of flooding and potential mitigation. There are a few areas that appear to be vulnerable and could benefit from having sustainable urban drainage (SuDs) implemented. Figure 9 shows areas in Hillfields that are more susceptible to surface water flooding based on Environment Agency data, which could be used to identify priority areas for the implementation of SuDs.

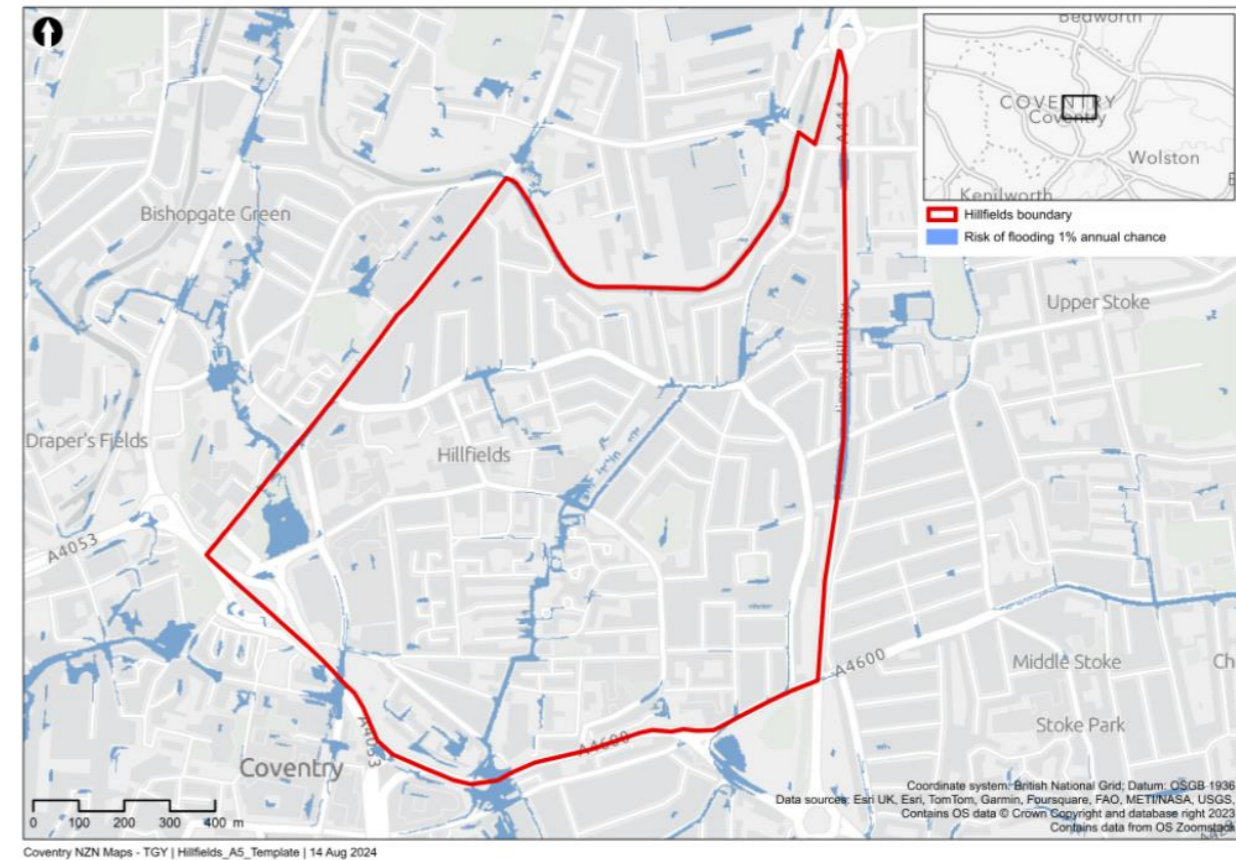


Figure 9: Extent of surface water flooding under a 1% chance scenario (Source: Environment Agency Database)

Understanding the Local Area

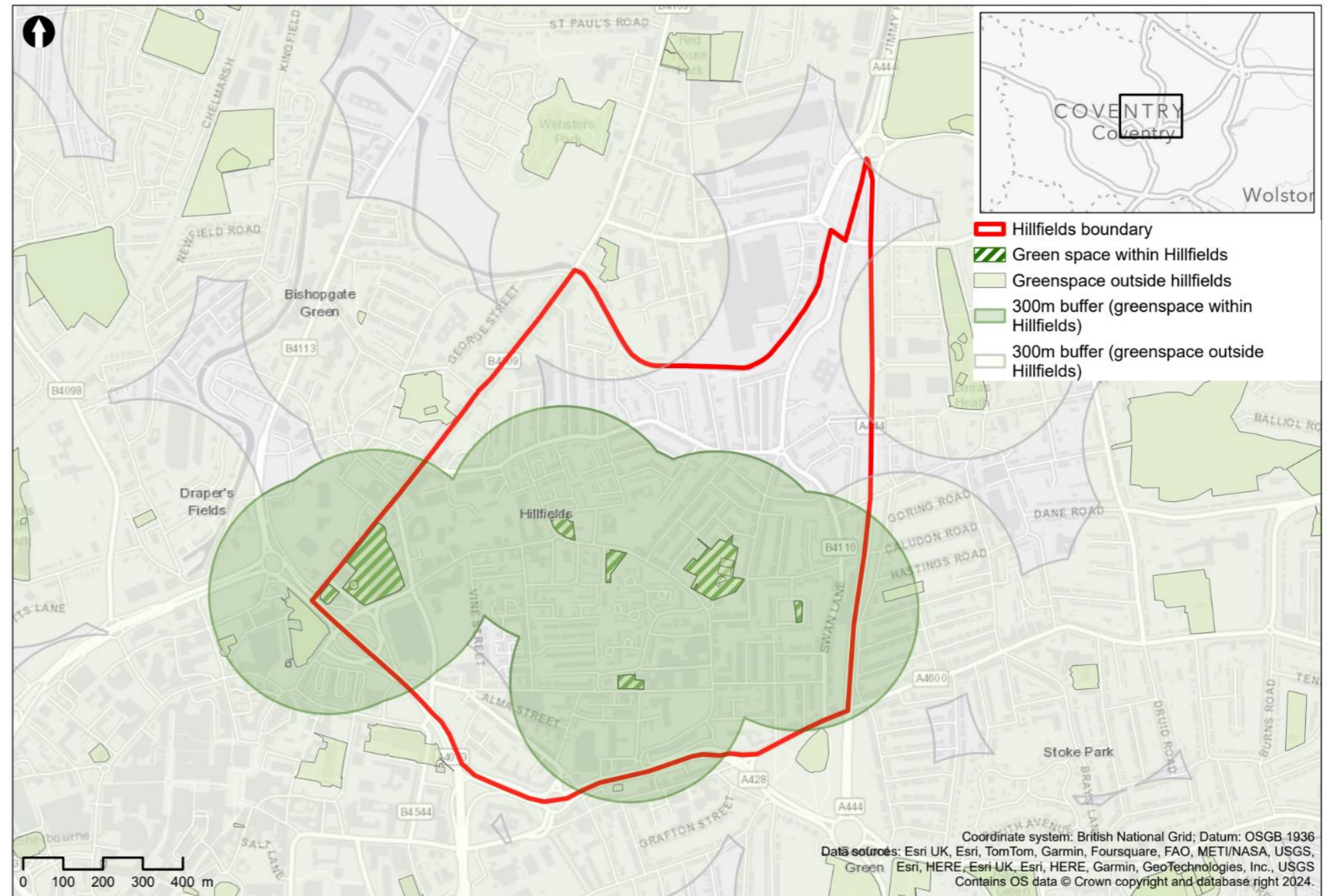
Natural Environment

Natural England has guidance on Providing Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities. This recommends that provision should be made of at least 2ha of accessible natural greenspace per 1000 population according to a system of tiers into which sites of different sizes fit:

- no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace;
- there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home;
- there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km;
- there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.

Figure 10 illustrates the areas of Hillfields that fall into the first requirement of being within 300m of greenspace, as well as those that are within 300m of greenspace outside of Hillfields.

Most of Hillfields meets this requirement, however the north of Hillfields does not fall into any of the buffer regions. The creation of greenspace within this area would be beneficial for the resident's wellbeing, increasing biodiversity in the area and ensuring Hillfields meets the Natural England Guidance.



Coventry NZN Maps - MGL | NZN Report - Greenspace within 300m | 11 Oct 2024

Figure 10: Areas in Hillfields within 300m of Greenspace



Walkable neighbourhoods analysis

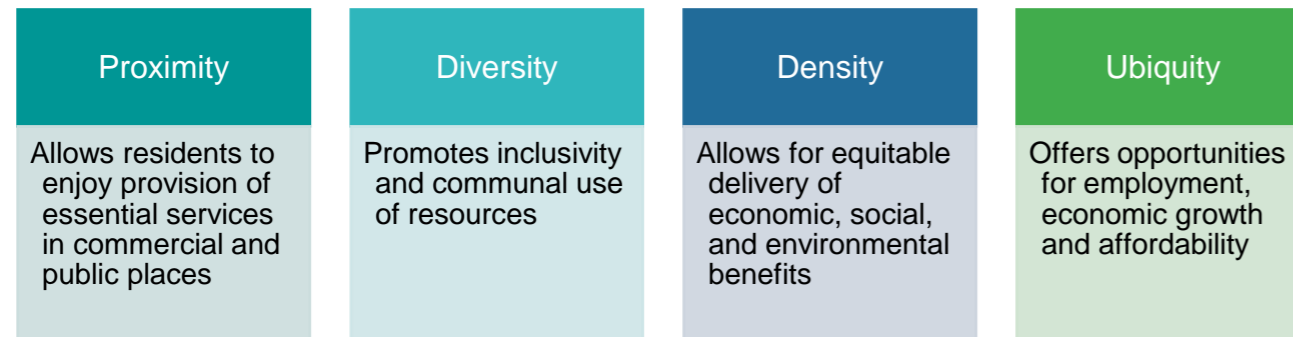
Understanding the Local Area

Creating walkable neighbourhoods

The holistic approach and principles of a walkable neighbourhood are central to achieving a net zero neighbourhood, particularly around low carbon mobility and behaviour change.

A liveable neighbourhood is one in which residents can access all their most basic, day-to-day needs within walking or cycling distance from their home.

It is unlocked through a menu of policy actions and based upon four pillars:



Reducing car use and encouraging active travel are central to delivering the liveable neighbourhood vision. These policies can transform urban spaces into connected and self-sufficient neighbourhoods.

This type of neighbourhood design serves as an organising principle for urban development and urban life that makes life more liveable for residents, by improving air quality and making neighbourhoods safer, quieter, more diverse, inclusive and economically vibrant – all elements that chime with the Net Zero Neighbourhood concept.

Just like a Net Zero Neighbourhood, it requires a move towards a more decentralised and devolved planning framework that understands in granular detail the unique characteristics of each neighbourhood and encourages development that will demonstrably improve the quality of life of the residents in those neighbourhoods.

In the UK, there are relatively few examples of planning policies and interventions that nurture liveable neighbourhoods, but the neighbourhoods being pioneered in Waltham Forest, Sheffield and Earlsdon as Coventry's first liveable neighbourhood – as well as those planned for Bristol, Bath, Manchester and other cities – are tentative first steps. There is huge potential for Hillfields to embody the liveable neighbourhood principles to address the low carbon mobility elements of a Net Zero Neighbourhood, learning from the Earlsdon example to benefit the Hillfields community.

Taking into account the existing characteristics of Hillfields, it is an ideal location to transform into a liveable neighbourhood as it already has many of the principles outlined in the diagram below. Phase 1 of the Net Zero Neighbourhood funding will further unlock the areas' potential of driving sustainable development and moving towards achieving reduced carbon emissions.

The idea of this report is to look holistically for solutions for creating walkable neighbourhoods. The next few slides illustrate some of the specific challenges faced in Hillfields.

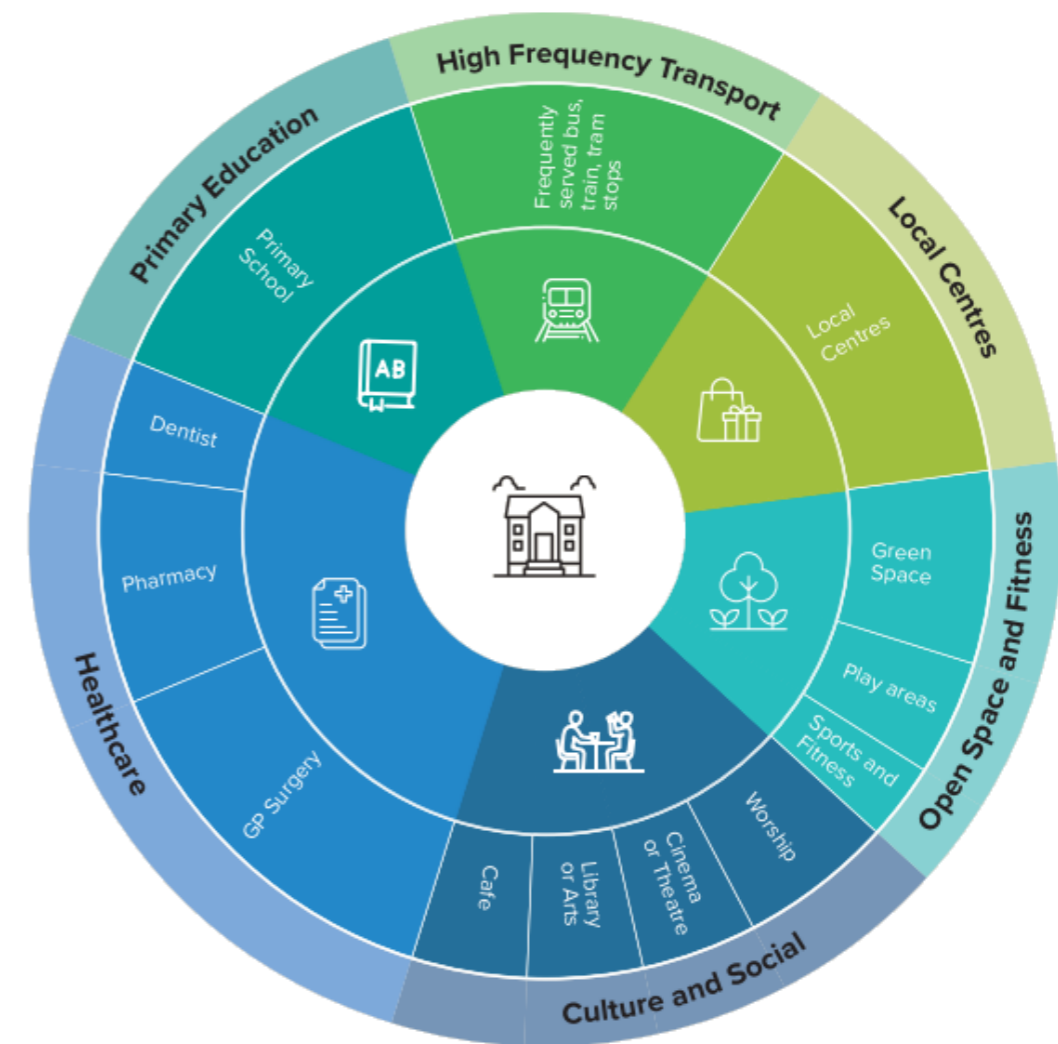


Figure 11: Principles of a walkable neighbourhood.

Understanding the Local Area

The walkable neighbourhood

An initial review of what is available within the area shows that there is a wide range of amenities located conveniently across Hillfields. Further research was carried out to determine how easily accessible these were via walking for residents across the area. The amenities assessed include:

- GP surgeries
- Pharmacies
- Green spaces
- Schools
- Shops
- Bus stops

The general trend observed is that most areas of Hillfields are well served by different amenities, with residents typically having to walk less than ten minutes. The north - eastern region of Hillfields is slightly further from the amenities in and around Hillfields, with residents having to walk over 16 minutes on average before being able to reach them. They may be well served by others outside of Hillfields, but this will require further analysis at the next stage.

Please note, data in the maps is from an open-source database which is not an authoritative source and could potentially have discrepancies and may not reflect local changes. Therefore, it is suggested that further review should be carried out if funding is secured.

Permeability of areas is going to have impacted the walk times to locations, therefore areas with large A roads will likely result in a longer walk time, despite the distance to an amenity appearing relatively close by.

Figures 12 and 13 show that the northwest of Hillfields is well connected to medical facilities (GP practises and pharmacies). This is beneficial, as it is apparent that residents in Hillfields have poorer health in comparison to national and city level statistics. Therefore, it is likely that many residents are reliant on such services and will benefit from being in close proximity to them.

Residents in the northeast/east of the area have to walk an increased distance in comparison to other regions, but the walk time is still within a suitable timeframe.

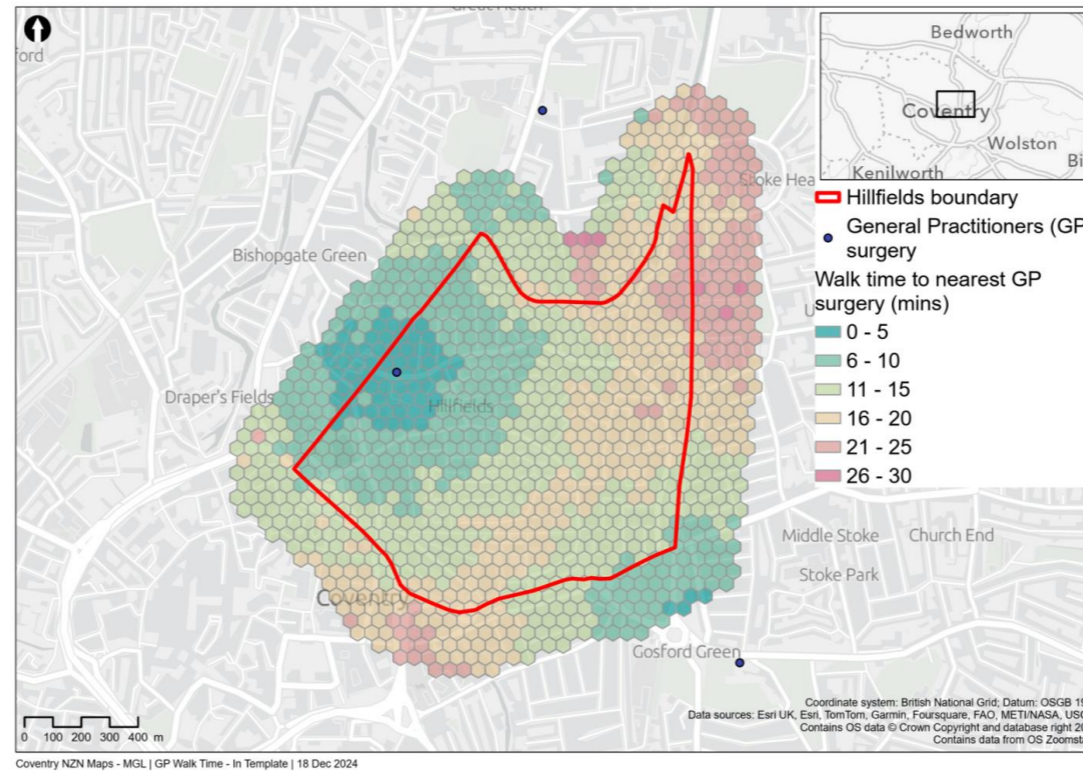


Figure 12: Walk time to the nearest GP centre in Hillfields

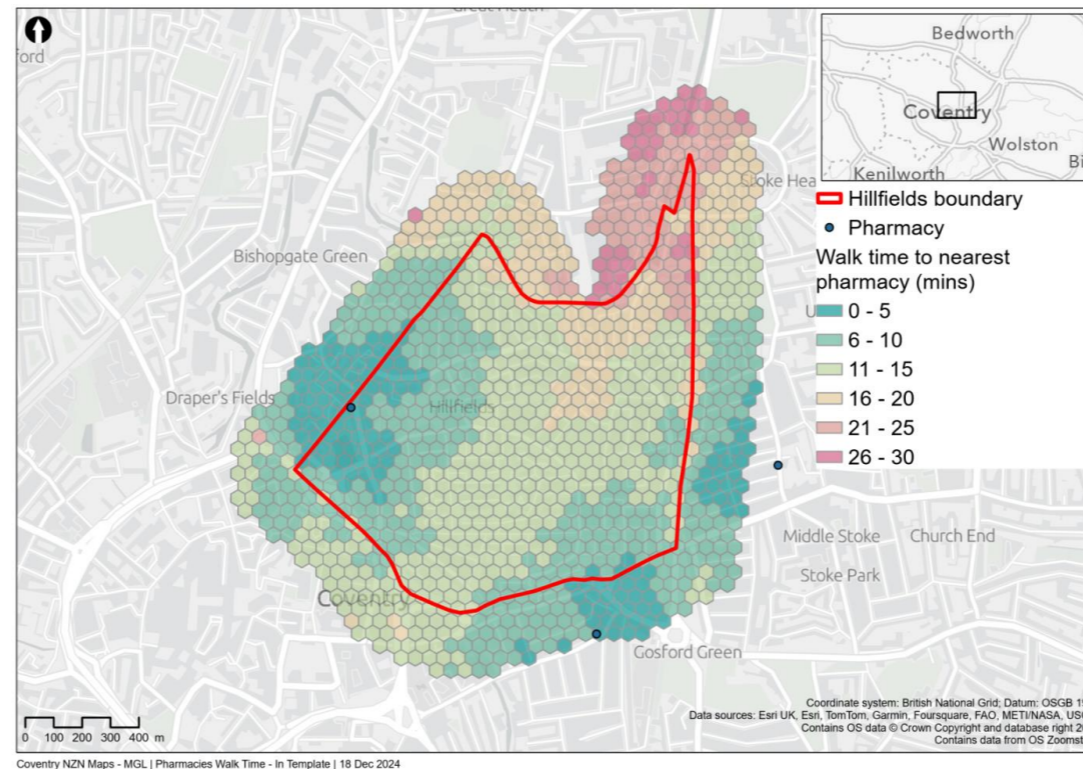


Figure 13: Walk time to nearest pharmacy

Understanding the Local Area

The walkable neighbourhood

Most of Hillfields is well connected to greenspaces. However, as part of the NZNP the quality of these greenspaces needs to be considered. The development of the Plan aims to provide residents with high quality greenspaces. Engagement with local stakeholders has highlighted that the greenspaces in the area are not particularly attractive and do not draw many of the residents in. Interventions proposed will address this concern.

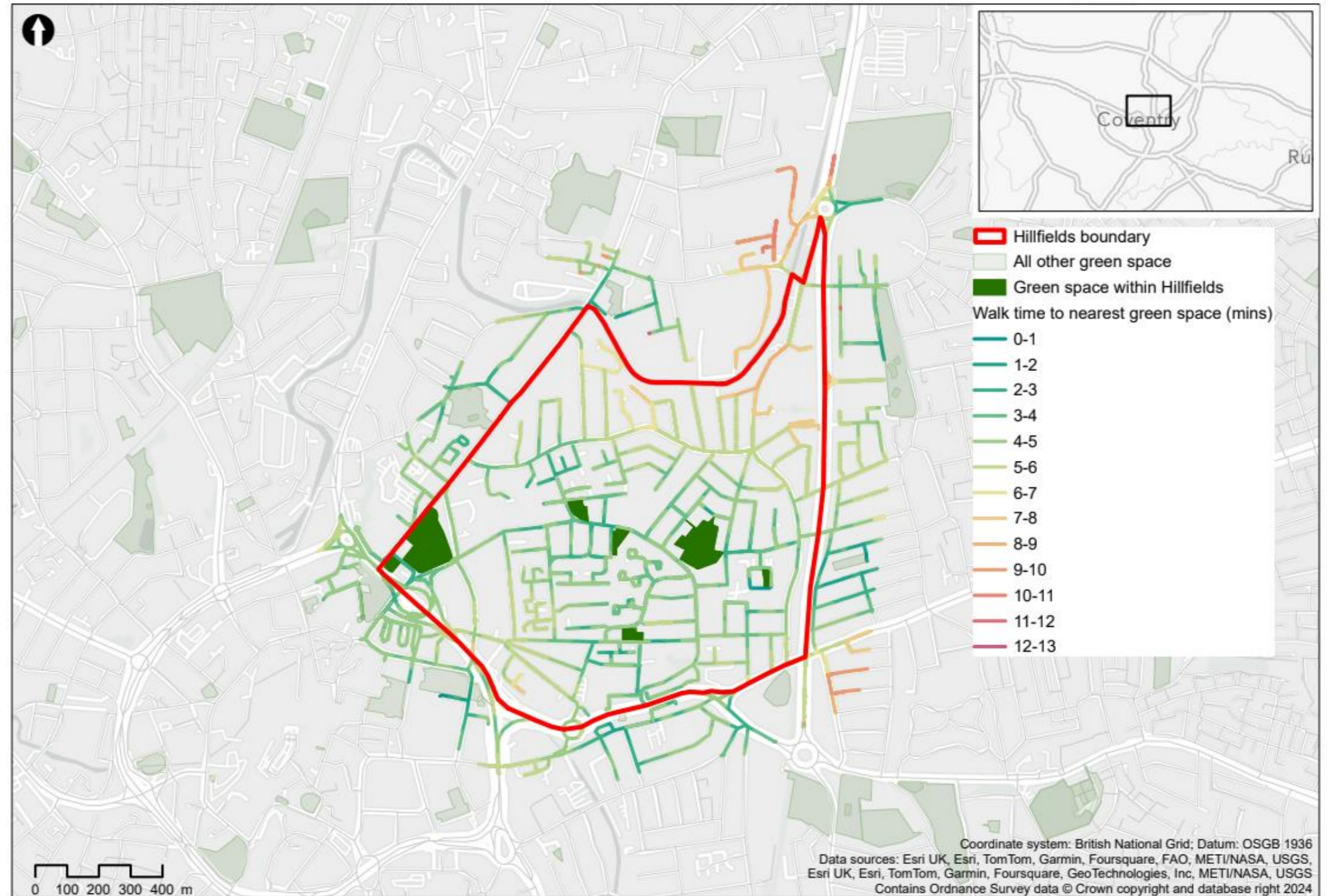
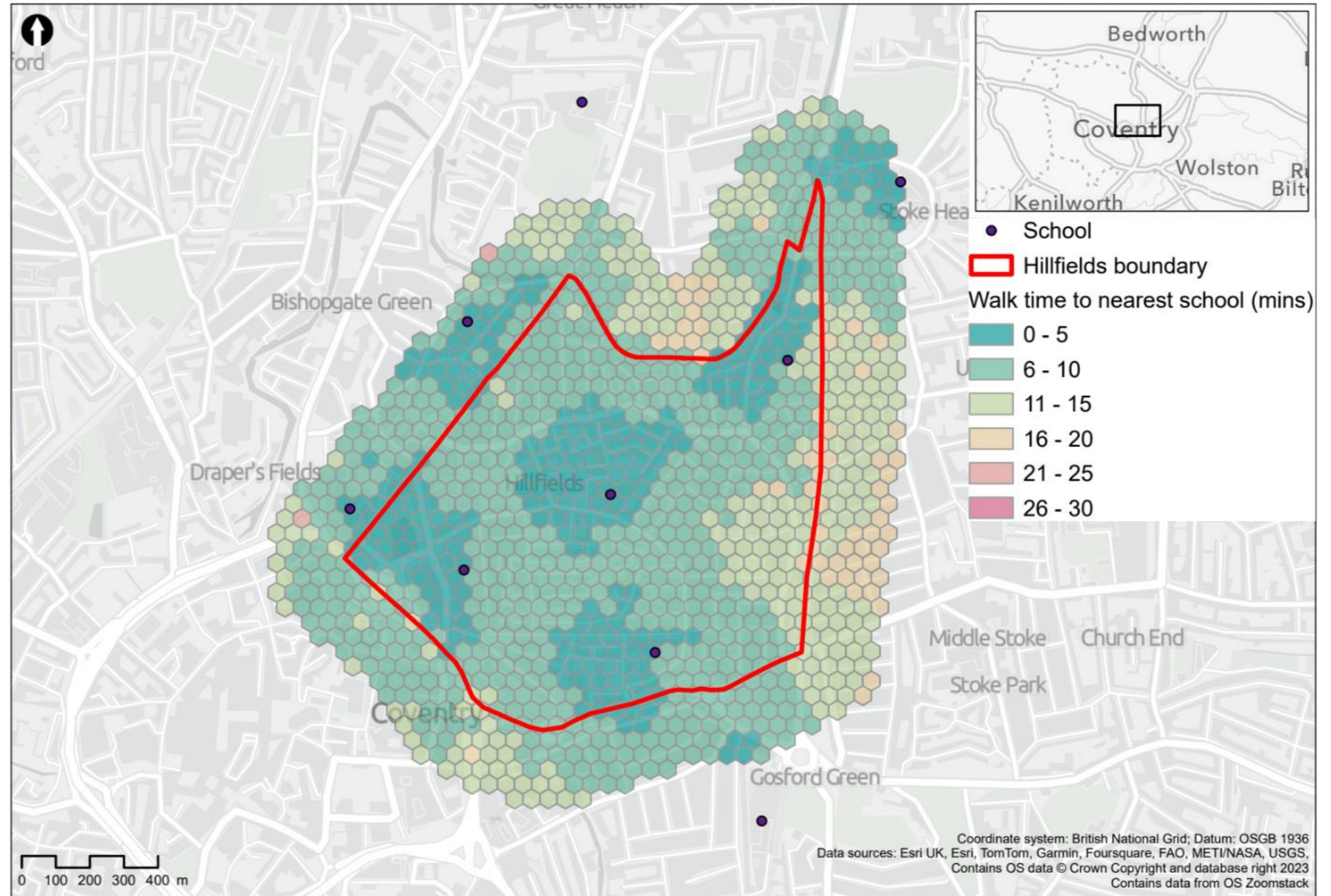


Figure 14: Walk time to nearest green space

Understanding the Local Area

The walkable neighbourhood

There are several primary and secondary schools located across the area of Hillfields, all of which are relatively easily accessible via walking routes. Most parts of the area are able to reach a school within 10 minutes, showing that schools are conveniently distributed across Hillfields.



Coventry NZN Maps - MGL | Schools Walk Time - In Template | 24 Nov 2020

Figure 15: Walk time to nearest schools

Understanding the Local Area

The walkable neighbourhood

There appears to be a heavier distribution of shops in certain parts of Hillfields, with the majority lying outside but close to the boundary line. Residents in the east of the area have reduced access to shops inside the Hillfields boundary via walking in comparison to residents living in the west. However, the eastern side is in closer proximity to shops in the Ball Hill (Walsgrave Road) and Clay Lane area. The shops in Figure 16 are typically smaller convenience stores.

Figure 17 illustrates the locations of larger supermarkets near to Hillfields. These are located to the southwest side of the boundary and a further walk for residents to the east of Hillfields.

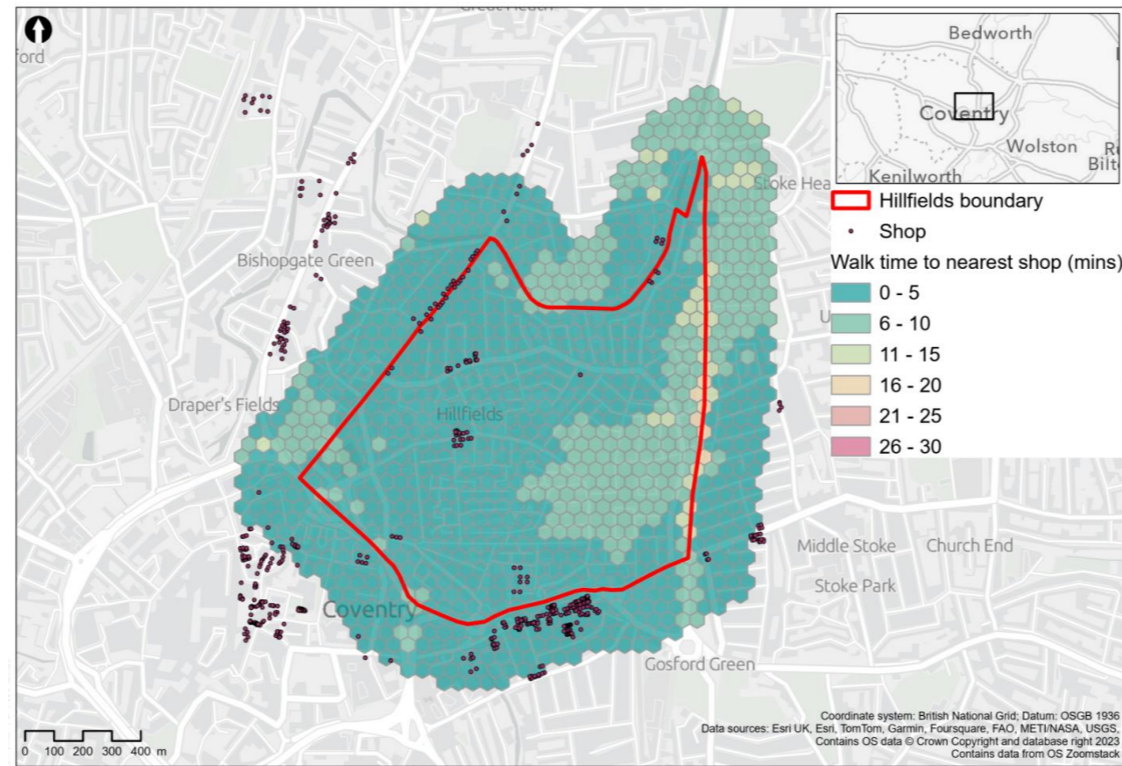


Figure 16: Walk time to nearest shops

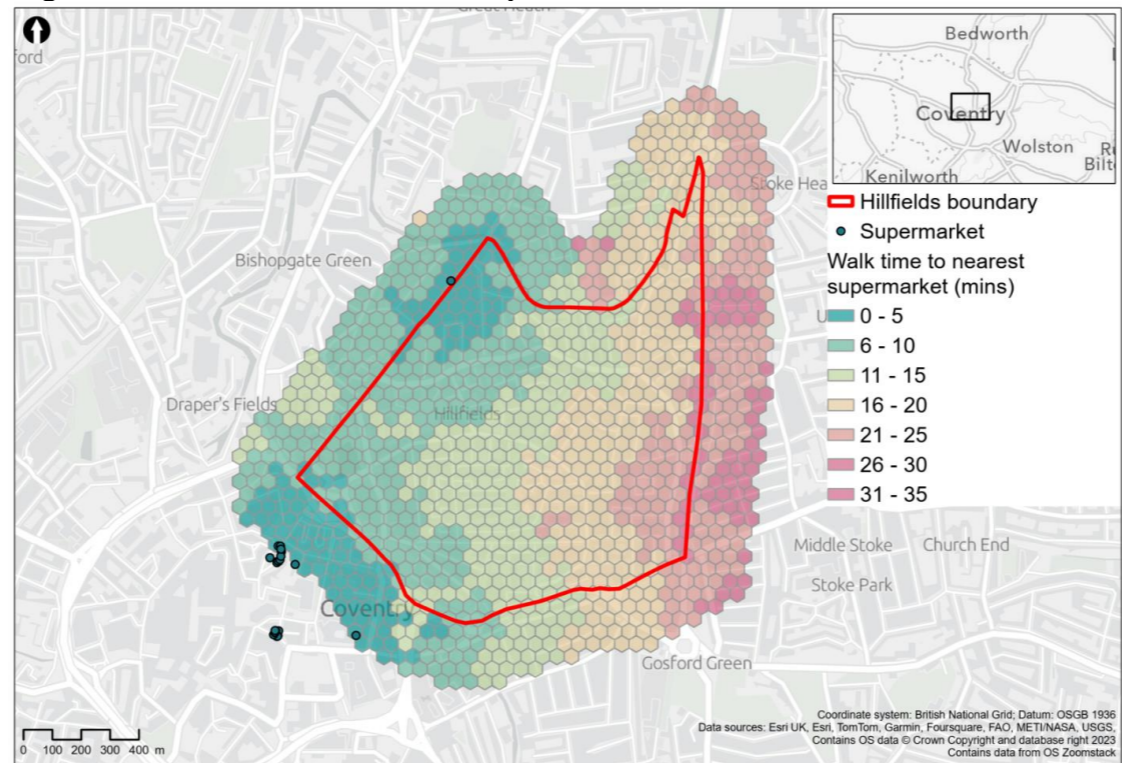
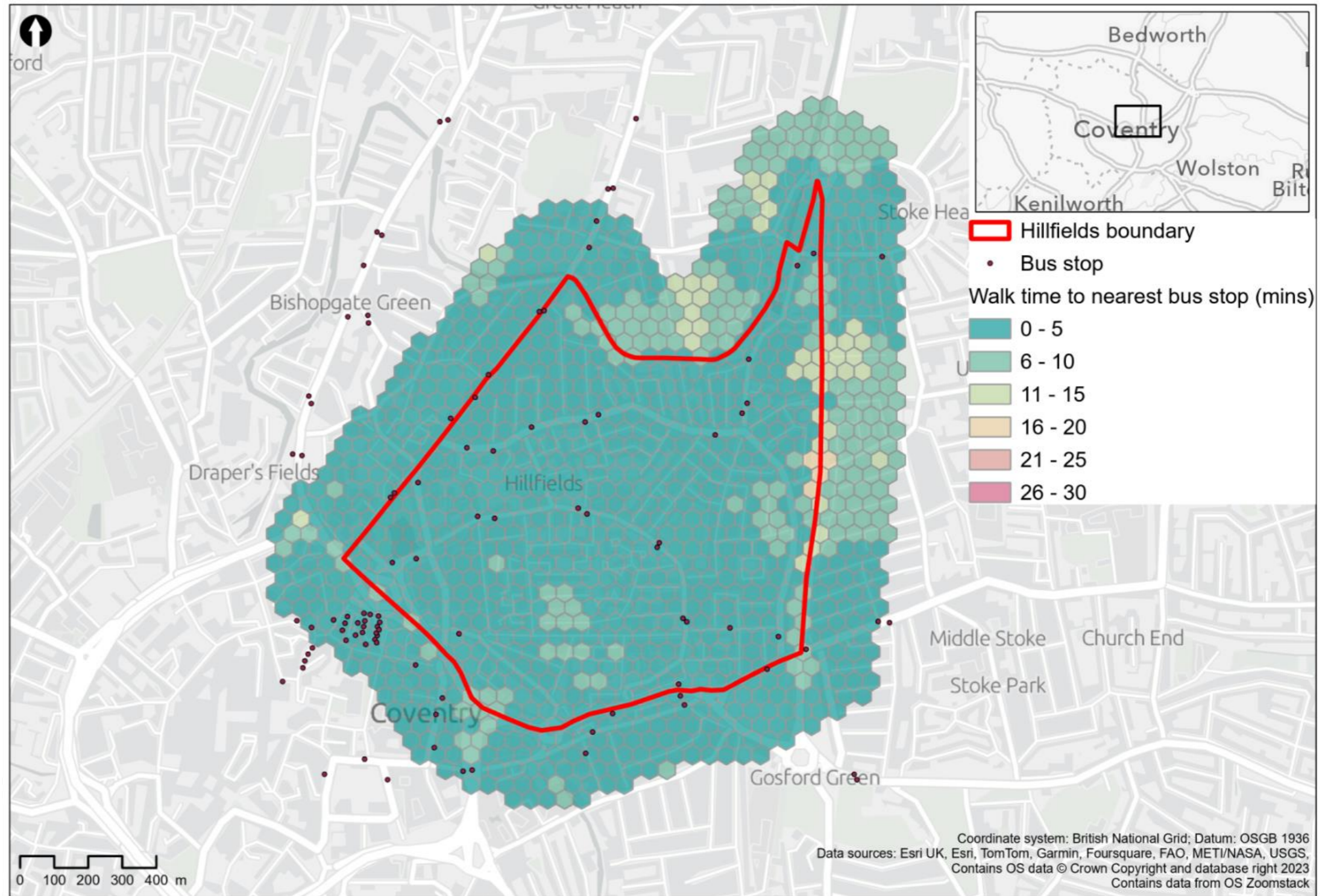


Figure 17: Walk time to nearest supermarkets

Understanding the Local Area

The walkable neighbourhood

Hillfields benefits from well-located bus stops, allowing for residents to utilise travel via bus, a more sustainable alternative to driving a car. As mentioned previously, the use of open-source data could result in discrepancies due to not being entirely up to date. We have utilised insight from the Council to reflect which bus stops that are no longer served that may still be displayed as active on public databases.



Coventry NZN Maps - MGL | Bus Stops Walk Time - In Template | 18 Dec 2024

Figure 18: Walk time to nearest bus stop

Understanding the Local Area

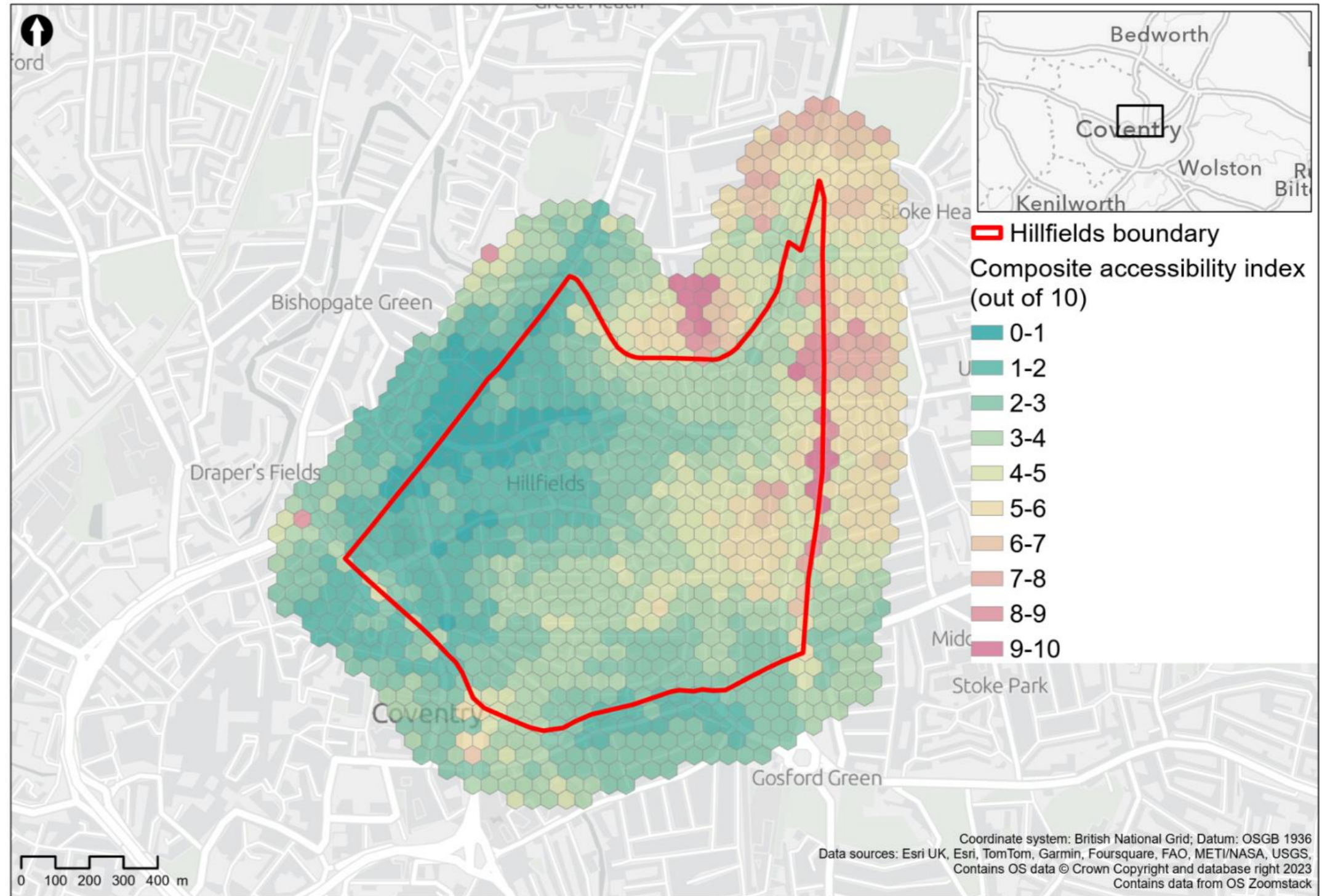
The walkable neighbourhood

Figure 19 combines the previous map rankings into a composite index for general access to amenities within Hillfields. The composite index is a combined metric which summarises accessibility to the amenities considered as a whole (shops, schools etc.). This is scaled from 1 – 10 to rank levels of accessibility, considering all possible walkable paths from the hexile to the amenity in question.

We have applied a 75% weighting to schools and supermarkets as these are not as applicable to all residents, with a 100% ranking to the other categories.

In carrying out this analysis, there have been some data gaps identified. Where this has occurred, we have applied the worst-case values from neighbouring cells in order to give a conservative estimate for that area.

This figure shows that the majority of Hillfields is very well connected to amenities. There is a clear pattern that shows better connection/accessibility in the western part of the study area, which appears to slightly decrease moving eastwards due to the A road that reduces permeability to the area.



Coventry NZN Maps - MGL | Composite Accessibility Index - In Template | 18 Dec 2024

Figure 19: Composite Accessibility Index Score (out of 10)

Portfolio of Interventions



Portfolio of Interventions

Overview

Based on the analysis of available baseline data, wider policy review and a workshop with Coventry City Council, a portfolio of interventions have been identified for Hillfields to support the development of a net zero neighbourhood. These recognise the importance of the holistic approach when identifying potential bespoke neighbourhood interventions to achieve Net Zero – a principle at the core of Coventry’s Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 and PAS 2035, the framework for building level retrofit. There is considerable value in scaling up proposed interventions across a whole neighbourhood in the future delivery of the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan. Identifying interventions and mechanisms that can be applied to multiple areas in Hillfields and across Coventry is a vital way of ensuring that there is long last benefit from the net zero neighbourhood demonstrator programme.

Methodology

The process that enabled identification of the potential interventions started with baseline data analysis, using existing open data in an ArcGIS online webmap. The topics covered included community demographics, environmental constraints and assets, community resources, housing and connectivity (including public transport and active travel links). In parallel to gathering the data was a workstream focused on the appropriate approach to community engagement, key stakeholders and community groups and relevant wider plans, policies and strategies that support and align with the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan.

In order to maximise the combined knowledge of Mott MacDonald specialists and Coventry City Council Members we ran an interactive workshops that allowed review of the proposed interventions in a holistic manner and to discuss community priorities and key elements of the Community Engagement Plan. The result is a palette of interventions derived from an assessment of local needs and which embody a ‘place-based’ approach to Net Zero – a tenet of the Net Zero Neighbourhood vision.

Approach

The interventions are aligned with the following themes: Built Environment, Low Carbon Mobility/Active Travel, Natural Environment and Community Growth. The list of potential interventions goes beyond what could be achieved within the Phase 1 £0.5m funding package but there is a potential for match funding and private sector investment in the immediate and longer term horizons, so the interventions have also been split into the immediate- and long-term packages. To demonstrate wider alignment with regional ambition, the interventions have all been mapped against the eight principles of the WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework.



Portfolio of Interventions

Net zero neighbourhood logic model

We have utilised the principles of the WMCA Logic Model applied to other NZNPs within our proposed interventions. Following on from this plan, we will insert our interventions into the model, and workshop any further expansions to the model, its inputs and outputs with the Council. The model provides a method to set clear KPIs and targets, a system which we would suggest to include within the implementation of this plan to ensure its progress is measurable and reported.

The following depicts the core pillars of the logic model.



Figure 20: Core pillars in the WMCA Logic Model.

The logic model is further broken down into the following categories:

- Impact
- Intermediate outcome
- Immediate outcome
- Output

The interventions in the following section aim to correspond with a range of immediate outcomes in accordance with the logic model.

Portfolio of Interventions

Citizen Housing

Citizen housing are the main provider of social housing in Hillfields. They manage around 650 units including houses, bungalows and 5 high-rise blocks in the area. They are a key stakeholder in Hillfields and following an engagement meeting with them, they were keen to support the NZNP development.

Existing projects

- Citizen has had a 5 year plan for the development and improvement of the area. They have commissioned a landscape architect to design improvements to the Primrose Hill Street that becomes very congested between 3 -5 pm due to the proximity of Coventry College and Sidney Stringer Academy. The designs for this area have not yet been shared, however the principles they are discussing with Citizen Housing compliment the urban greening and street improvements discussed in the liveable neighbourhood section of this report.
- Citizen are currently looking at methods of decarbonising the tower blocks within their portfolio. We have suggested that this could be an opportunity to engage E.ON through the Strategic Energy Partnership. This is discussed in later sections.
- There are ongoing discussions around the installation of gates around the three tower blocks round the main square to improve resident's safety.
- There are concerns around antisocial behaviour in the series of 6 cul-de-sacs in the southwest of Hillfields. There are feasibility studies and further engagement with the landscape architects around the possibility of reducing permeability to the area and blocking entrances to the community.
- Engagement with Coventry College, Warwick University and Coventry University.

During the discussions with Citizen, areas of potential improvement were discussed and their understanding of what the general priority for interventions to improve the area should be. There are many families in the area, and Citizen expressed the ambition to have a better quality and usage of some of the greenspaces and community areas. These are discussed in further detail on the following slides. The overarching principle is that spaces should encourage residents and family to use them, rather than communal spaces to become hubs for anti-social behaviour.


Projects identified by Citizen

There were 3 main projects currently being undertaken by Citizen that can support the NZNP. These are:

- 1) Pioneer House, Douglas House, Thomas King House and Paul Stacey House: to create a protected, secure, green and environmentally friendly spaces around the areas owned by Citizen where the high-rise blocks are situated.
- 2) Vernon Close, Vauxhall Close, Brook Close, Days Close, Spring Close, Gilbert – Six Radburn design cul-de-sacs known locally as The Closes: To create protected, secure & environmentally friendly spaces that are free from crime.
- 3) Citizen green space adjacent to the Community Centre in Yardley Street: To create a local community growing space which will be managed by the local St Peters Centre. St Peters is a religious based organisation who runs numerous community led projects serving the people of Hillfields.

These projects are detailed further in the relevant sections of the report and have been included within the interventions proposed.





**Interventions
summary:
Built environment**

Portfolio of Interventions

Built environment

Immediate built environment interventions are the core interventions that could be implemented to maximise the benefits of the £500,000 Phase 1 Funding. According to baseline data, approximately half of the residential properties have insufficient, or no roof, wall or window insulation. By allocation of a large proportion of the funding towards those needs, we can ensure immediate improvement to energy efficiency, heating cost and carbon emissions. These inherently embody the fabric-first approach from PAS 2035. Long term interventions can be considered when more funding is available and will further build upon reducing emissions and addressing wider sustainability issues in Hillfields.

Intervention	Cost	Timescale	Potential funding	Logic model correlation
Light retrofit homes	Approx. £5,900/house (price does not cover flats)	Immediate	Energy Company Obligation/ Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund/HUG/ECO4 Other funding sources are available such as the Great British insulation scheme which is better suited to light retrofit.	Buildings are thermally efficient
Heavy retrofit	Approx. £60,200/property (incl. houses and flats)	Immediate	Great British Insulation Scheme/ ECO4/ Social Housing Fund, particularly for external wall insulation	Buildings are thermally efficient
Domestic heat pumps	Approx. £17,000-18,000 (price will vary depending on property type)	Immediate	Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS) - Up to £7,500 towards cost and installation	Buildings are connected to low carbon energy
Domestic solar PV	Approx. £8,300/house (excl. batteries)	Immediate	ECO4 Group buying schemes could also potentially reduce costs	The building generated its own energy, buildings are connected to low carbon energy
Commercial and community buildings PV	Approx. 1,300 per KW (10-50kw installation size)	Immediate	VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme - Up to £150,000 for a capital grant Community Energy Warwickshire Fund - up to £2k	The building generated its own energy, buildings are connected to low carbon energy
Tower block centralised heating system	Scheme dependent	Long term		The cost of energy is affordable for residents, buildings are connected to low carbon energy
Small residential district heating	Scheme dependent	Long term	Green Heat Network Fund/Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU)	The cost of energy is affordable for residents, buildings are connected to low carbon energy
Have a landlord forum which can be used to gain buy-in from private landlords. This could utilise the existing landlord forum or a Hillfields focussed forum could be established if beneficial.	Limited associated costs	Immediate		Buildings are thermally efficient
Car parks for solar	Excluding site works, solar canopy costs per KW are likely to be £2,500 per KW installed capacity. However, fully loaded costs will be higher after considering site works and connections.	Long term		The building generated its own energy, buildings are connected to low carbon energy

Portfolio of Interventions

Built environment - wider scale interventions

Residential street heat network development

Street-size networks, such as the networked heat pump, provide heating and cooling for multiple properties and are a solution to providing low-carbon heat at the low cost and with minimal grid impact. These can be provided through ground source heat pumps, which in the short term are more viable for developing a small-scale network than a large-scale network. The “Heat the Streets” project by Kensa Utilities is a good demonstration of this model. Kensa’s networked GSHPs replicate the gas network model, providing a scalable and efficient heating solution for various types of housing.

Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) Round 14

The HNDU has been established as part of the Government’s decarbonisation strategy. The unit provides funding and guidance to local authorities to develop techno-economic feasibility studies for heat networks and supporting them through each project stage.

Coventry City Council have applied for this funding to assess the feasibility of a heat network in Hillfields. Previous studies have indicated that there are key buildings in Hillfields for the development of a wider heat network, however further work is needed to assess the possibility of a smaller, localised network.

If funding is awarded by the HNDU to Hillfields, the NZNP would not have to include the cost of a feasibility study within its Project Delivery Plan. However, at later stages, it could be advantageous to include design fees for a heat network in budget allocation to provide low cost and carbon heat to Hillfields.

Tower block development

Centralised heating system for tower blocks, characterised by their high-rise structure and dense occupancy, present an opportunity for centralised heat pump systems. These are a scalable solution for providing low-carbon heating to these buildings. These can utilise either ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) or air source heat pumps (ASHPs). GSHPs extract heat from the ground through buried pipes, while ASHPs draw heat from the air. Both systems offer renewable heating solutions with varying installation requirements and efficiencies.

Social housing providers that own tower blocks could be key partners for development, due to their ownership of the whole building. Tariffs can be developed considering the social benefit of the development. Citizen is the largest social housing provider in Coventry with a substantial portfolio of tower blocks, many of which are currently reliant on gas and will need to transition away from gas-based heating systems.

Heat as a service

Heat as a Service is a model for consumers to choose and pay for the experience of warmth and comfort level provided, instead of the traditional payment per energy unit used. The associated project would define the tariff offered to consumers.

This model is being tested by E.ON to cover the cost of installation of air source heat pumps for domestic customers, as part of the Energy Systems Catapult trial.

Engagement with E.ON could identify if Hillfields would be a suitable area to apply this initiative to.

Portfolio of Interventions

Built environment - domestic interventions

Heavy retrofit (longer term activity)

Heavy/ deep retrofit involves more significant building fabric improvements to properties, such as external or internal wall insulation for solid walls and replacement of single glazing windows with double or triple glazed windows. These are typically more expensive and disruptive to install, and are not currently grant eligible.

Similar to light retrofit, the current assumed business model is that residents and landlords pay for measures through their own capital. Current grant schemes can support such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF).

Light touch retrofit measures (immediate to long term)

Light retrofit involves works to improve the building fabric and energy efficiency of a property with low levels of disruption and cost. These involve cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, LED light replacement and smart meter installation. Meter installation, whilst not directly a retrofit measure, is an essential part of the retrofit package that enables homes to review and control their energy usage, as well as help inform surveys.

As mentioned in the Capital Investment Plan, schemes like ECO4 and the SHDF help to deliver these works, and are currently being utilised by Coventry City Council.

Infrared heat panels (immediate to longer term activity)

Infrared panels are an alternative method providing heat within a home. They use radiative heat compared with convectional systems as seen in radiators, that can heat objects rather than space. This method means less heat is lost through draughts and opening and closing rooms. Whilst more expensive than radiators, they significantly lower energy bills and can be installed without any additional pipework. When combined with PV panels installed on the roof of a home to provide electricity for heating the panels, the system can reduce the energy costs for a home.

WATCH energy ambassadors

WATCH recently received funding from the Redress scheme by Ofgem to train Coventry Community Energy Champions. This Level 3 energy awareness training enabled residents to inform their neighbours around the issues such as damp, poor ventilation and not being able to afford to heat their homes. These volunteers were able to speak a variety of languages including Arabic but noted that more was required to provide resources in languages for all of Hillfield's residents to enable those who need to be informed about support available to them. Quality assurance will be essential for all staff involved including the energy champions as well as the council staff.

The success of this scheme was largely due to residents trusting people they knew rather than a company going door to door. Further funding could be provided to roll out additional funding to more of Hillfields' residents, as well as providing resources that can be more widely accessed by the community.

Residential building mount solar PV (longer term activity)

Residential Building mount solar PV projects involve the installation of solar PV panels, with or without a battery, on residential properties. These generate electricity for the owner, which is consumed at home to reduce electricity bills. Excess electricity generated is either stored in batteries if purchased, or sold back to the grid through a Smart Export Guarantee tariff.

The typical business model is for building owners to purchase panels using their capital, and the partnership would install and maintain these. Some energy efficiency grants can be used for solar panels (e.g. ECO4), but the intention is for these grants to primarily be used for energy efficiency before generation. There is also potential for funding via group purchasing schemes.

The potential for building mount solar has been assessed across Coventry as part of the SEP. The maps in the interventions section highlights potential areas to target.

The feasibility of installing panels would be advantageous for streets running east to west with south facing roofs. Air source heat pumps and PV panels can be an optimised solution to provide low carbon power and heat to a home.

Energy metering/ monitoring

Installation of energy meters will allow residents to keep better track of their gas and electric usage. The use of a smart meter will provide half hourly readings for gas and in near real time reading for electricity. Smart meters are an important part of the transition to a greener and more reliable energy system. The metered data will enable residents to understand their energy consumption without taking meter readings. They also create a baseline of data to compare the performance of the home following the measures installed. This in turn tracks the performance of the NZNP.

Residents should be encouraged to install these as they are provided free from energy suppliers. Training should also be provided alongside installations to ensure residents are able to use them effectively. This could be supported by the energy ambassadors.

Portfolio of Interventions

Built environment - estimated potential for PV capacity

The buildings in Hillfields have varying capabilities in regard to solar capacity. Although more can be generated from community buildings than houses, a larger portion of the building stock in the area is houses. Therefore, it would be advantageous to install PV on houses where possible, as they form the majority of the roof space that is available.

35% of properties are social rented, which presents a good opportunity for this intervention to be implemented. In order to benefit from the housing stock further, close engagement will be required with landlords to encourage buy-in. This will be vital in being able to explore the full benefits of installing PV across the area. Although this has been listed as an immediate intervention, it will require a phased approach which will initially focus in on a few properties. With time and as more funding becomes available, installation of PV can be expanded across more buildings.

Eventually, the potential to install solar PV in car parks can be explored. Figure 22 displays the current car park spaces available in Hillfields that could be potential sites of interest for this intervention. However, the roll out of this intervention will be reliant upon car park ownership. If the Council has low car park ownership in the area, then the impact of this intervention will be significantly reduced.

Building mount solar

If all the identified properties have building mount solar installed, the total annual yield would be 6,935,900 kWh with an installed capacity of 8,200 kWp. Using Ofgem benchmarks³ for houses and flats, it is estimated that domestic properties use around 19,300 MWh of electricity a year. Installing all building mount solar across the area would account for 36% of Hillfields' domestic energy consumption.

³ [Average gas and electricity usage | Ofgem](#)

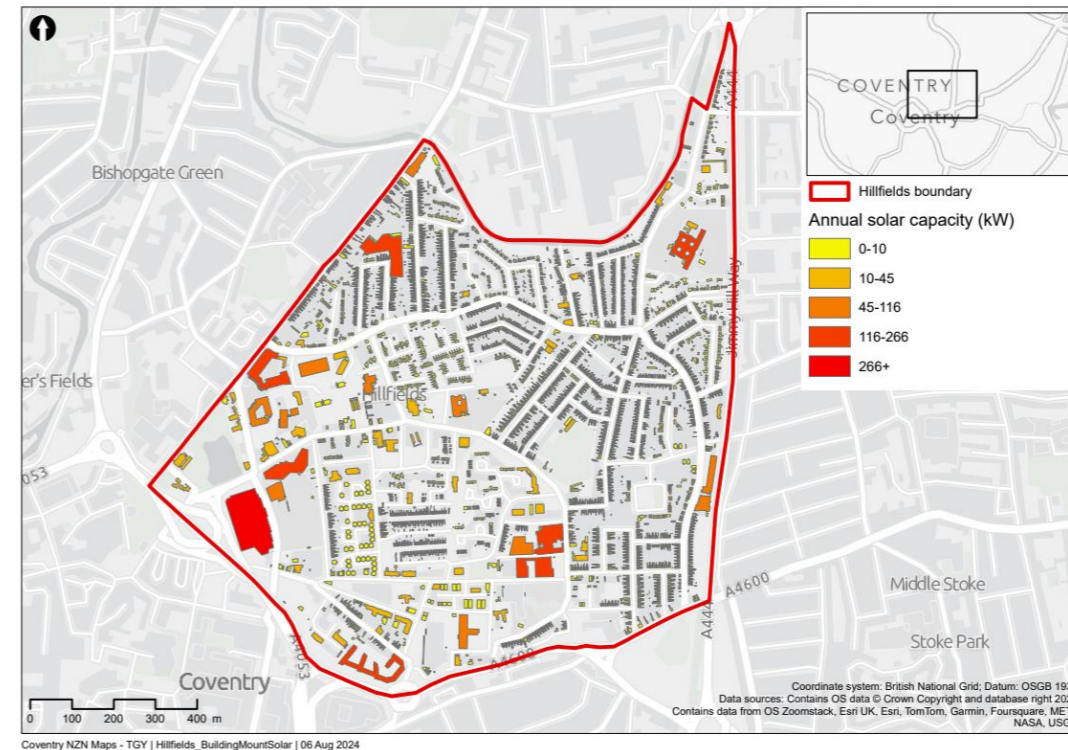


Figure 21: Potential solar capacity in Hillfields

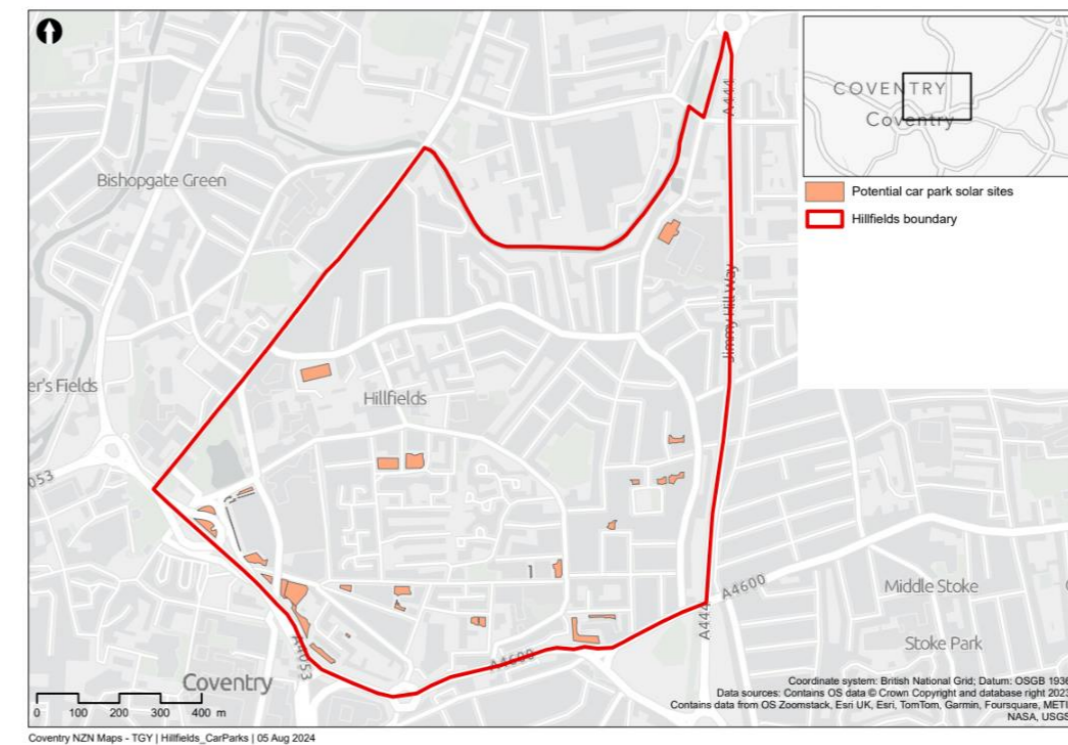


Figure 22: Available car park spaces in Hillfields



**Interventions
summary:
Low carbon mobility**

Portfolio of Interventions

Low carbon mobility and active travel

It is estimated that road transport accounts for 27% of Coventry's local authority emissions. Enabling safer walking and cycling routes and improving the associated infrastructure will encourage residents to utilise other forms of transport.

Intervention	Cost	Timescale	Potential funding	Logic model correlation
Bike ability - cycle confidence training , focus on women	Free (with an admin fee in some cases), but private sessions come at a varied cost	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible
Dr Bike sessions at local businesses	Maintenance lessons starting from £40	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible
On street EV charging	£5 – 6 k per 7 kw charger	Immediate	Local Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund	Accessible infrastructure exists to support low and non-emitting vehicles
Workplace EV charging	£5 – 7 k per 7 – 22 kw charger	Long term	Workplace Charging Scheme	Accessible infrastructure exists to support low and non-emitting vehicles
School active travel programmes	Costs vary	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, residents are more physically active
Cycle parking at convenient locations	Cost depends on type of parking provided: average £8,000 per School	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, residents are more physically active
Liveable neighbourhoods	Costs vary (estimated £1 million for the implementation of Earlsdon)	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, active travel routes are safe for residents
On-street cycle hangars	Pricing starts from approx. £1000. Price varies dependent on size	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, residents are more physically active
Expand already existing cycle hire scheme	To be discussed further with current supplier	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, residents are more physically active
Safer route to city centre (and other locations to be reviewed at the next stage)	Resurfacing cycle route cost £0.14-0.19 million/km Segregated cycle routes can be £1.5 million/km	Immediate	WMCA Active Travel Fund	Residents employ active travel methods where possible, active travel routes are safe for residents
Promotional offers to promote active travel - e.g., discount on refurbished bikes for residents from low-income backgrounds		Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, residents are more physically active
Car sharing scheme	Limited associated costs	Immediate		Reduction in the overall number of vehicles on roads
Levies on parking spaces at work places	Limited associated costs	Immediate		Residents employ active travel methods where possible
Utilising VLR programme	Limited associated costs under this programme	Long term		It is possible for residents to get to where they need in a reasonable time using public transport, residents use public transport where possible
Mobility hub at Pool Meadow Bus Station	Costs vary	Long term		Residents employ active travel methods where possible, residents are more physically active

Portfolio of Interventions

Low carbon mobility and active travel - liveable neighbourhoods

Coventry City Council are already piloting some other liveable neighbourhoods such as the one in Earlsdon. Following engagement, the final proposals include initiatives such as:

- 20mph zones
- New safe crossing areas e.g., zebra crossings, toucan crossings
- Narrowing of roads for traffic calming
- Pavement widening
- One-way streets
- Cycle hire docks
- Benches and planting

A similar scheme can be implemented in Hillfields, providing a great opportunity to reduce traffic and improve air quality. A core aim of a Liveable Neighbourhood scheme is to improve road safety for both pedestrians and vehicle users, as well as enhance the natural environment.

A street audit was carried out in early August by Living Streets to identify issues and opportunities when walking the streets of Hillfields centre. The findings will be summarised in a report due after the NZNP finalisation, however some of the initial findings are included below; some of the findings are as follows:

- Parking was raised as an issue by councillors with a lot of footway parking. This appeared to be greatest along Wellington Street and Canterbury Street
- It was noticeable how busy the streets were with pedestrians, and paths are not particularly wide. There are places on the street where road narrowing to provide wider footways could cater for a better balance of street users.
- There is going to be better enforcement of the Wellington Street Car Park which might mean less informal parking on the highway.
- Markings on the Zebra Crossing outside Sidney Stringer Academy were faded.
- The audit noted that the switching off of streetlights overnight may not be suitable in this area.
- The audit did not involve crossing the road at the four-way junction at the top of Cox Street. This did not have any formalised crossings and might therefore retract from people walking from Hillfields into the City Centre.
- A few areas with a potential scope for SUDS or planting, or improvements to better cater for desire lines.
- The community also identified locations for play equipment.
- There was discussion about the need for trees and seating, particularly around Wellington Street and on the Square outside the WATCH building. At the latter, de-paving and planting could help mitigate the heat and deter pigeons.

- It was noted that electric charging bollards were blocking the footway so there was a suggestion that these could be relocated to build-outs in the carriageway instead.

Where possible, the findings from the Living Streets Audit should be included within the NZNP and future planning. The area by the WATCH building and Wellington Street is a particular focus for the NZNP, as it has been identified by both the Council and Living Streets as an area for improvement.

Active travel

Encouraging low carbon mobility and active travel is a core aim of the NZNP and WMCA framework. From the work with the Strategic Energy Partnership between E.ON and Coventry City Council, it is understood that there is already a good level of EV infrastructure across Coventry as well as potential programmes identified to install additional chargers. Following socio-economic analysis of Hillfields, it has been determined that car ownership throughout the area is low, with many residents commuting to work destinations within or close to Hillfields itself.

It has therefore been decided that the focus of this section will be on active travel measures, such as improving cycling and walking routes, rather than provision of additional EV infrastructure.

Detail on locations for route interventions, cycle hire and bikeability

There are some cycle hubs across Coventry such as the Warwick Road Cycle Hub, however feasibility studies and engagement could be undertaken to install a hub in Hillfields. Analysis of where this would be best place would be undertaken to best serve residents who would benefit for them. This is likely to be near the schools and centre of Hillfields.

At the previous farm location in Hillfields, there was a scheme where an individual ran free bike maintenance sessions as well as lesson provision on how to ride a bike. It has been identified through community engagement that this has been discontinued but there is appetite to reinstate a similar scheme.

Mobility hub at Pool Meadow Bus Station

With a core transport station located in the area, there is a collaborative opportunity that can be pursued. The Council can partner with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and delivery mobility hubs, which offer a range of transport options in one place. The services provided will need to be reflective of the needs of Hillfields. Services could include but are not limited to:

- Shared transport services e.g., cycle hire, EV charging points, care sharing
- Support for active travel, including maintenance/tool station and secure cycle parking
- Public space with greenery, shelter and seating
- Local information, timetables and maps

Any proposed developments at the next stage should consider access to locations beyond the city centre, as well as future proofing for future developments such as VLR.

Portfolio of Interventions

Low carbon mobility and active travel - permeability and accessibility

Hillfields is a predominantly built-up area with domestic areas connected by the road network. Harnall Lane East, Swan Lane, Victoria Street and Paynes Lane are the main roads that cross Hillfields east to west and connect the area to the bordering A444 and the A4053. Primrose Rose Hill Road is the most congested area in Hillfields as previously mentioned and runs from the southwest to the centre of Hillfields. Please note, the 'other' category in Figure 23 is categorised as anything that does not fall in line with the described categories. This can include, slopes and pylons and does not necessarily indicate neglected land. Categories originate from OS MasterMap and are based on descriptions and themes of land.

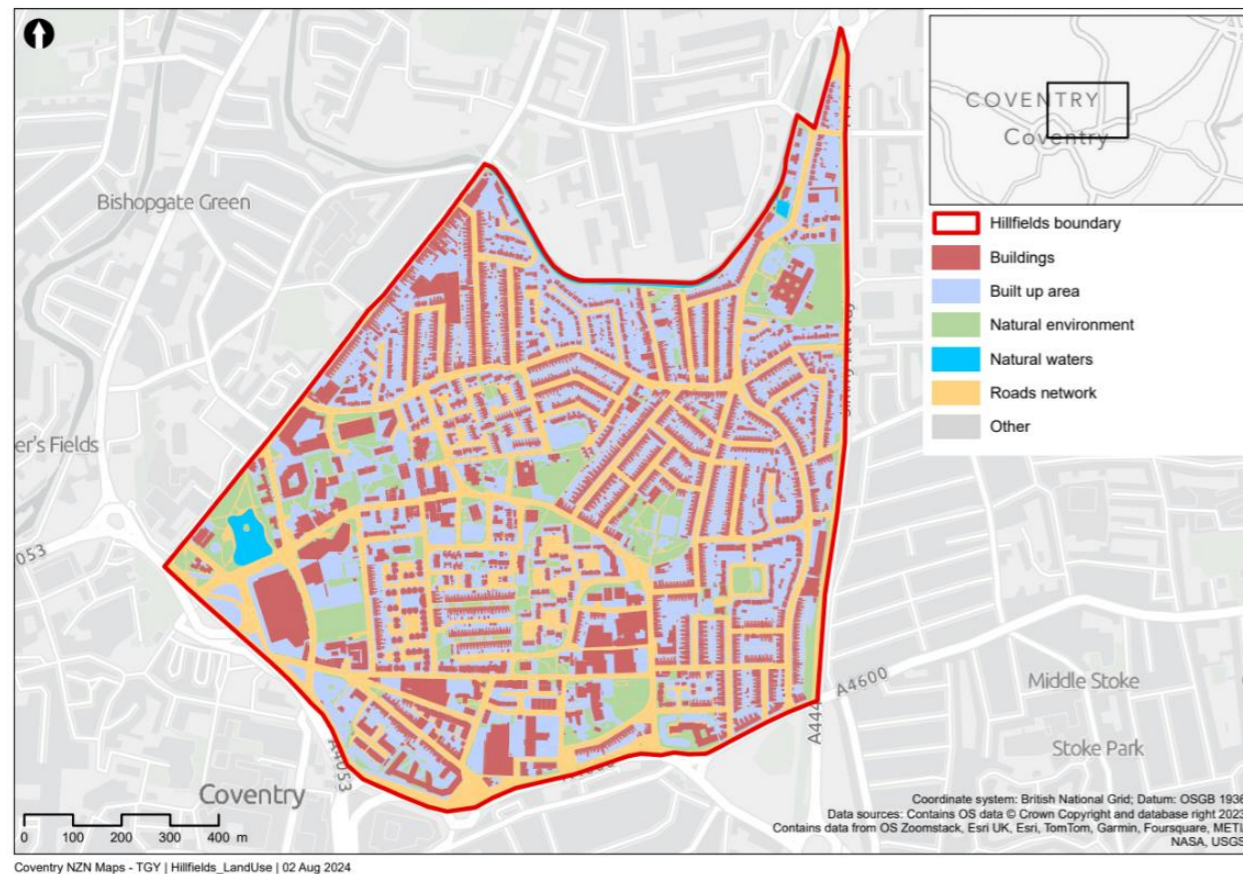


Figure 23: Land use types in Hillfields

Hillfields displays good connectivity and pedestrian access ways, improving the walkability of the area. This can be built upon with interventions that enhance the natural environment and increase its appeal, further encouraging active travel.

However, there are issues surrounding crime and anti-social behaviour within the area that could be discouraging for active travel. Research suggests that the layout of road networks and the permeability and accessibility of them have an influence on crime rates.

Different studies have produced opposing stances on permeability and its impact on crime. Some studies suggest that permeability is good for reducing crime. This is due to improved permeability facilitating active travel which will discourage crime due to there being an increase in potential witnesses.

On the other hand, some findings suggests that areas with greater ease of accessibility often have higher crime rates. This is partly due to there being better access routes for escape, if required. This stance promotes an 'enclosure' method for street networks which encourages controlled access to neighbourhoods. The ease of access in Hillfields is likely an enabling factor for the crimes in the area.

Permeability in certain areas may need to be reduced to tackle this problem. However, this will require careful consideration in order to not significantly reduce the walkability of the area for local residents. The approach adopted will need to find a balance between the two stances mentioned on permeability to reach an optimal solution. This permeability of certain areas is a focus area for Citizen Housing, as discussed on the next slide.

Cul-de-sacs (Citizen project 2)

This area of six conjoining cul-de-sacs has become a centre for illegal and anti-social behaviour. Alongside the architectural landscaping for Primrose Hill street, there are designs being developed for Citizen Housing to reduce permeability to this area to deter the current activities in these streets. A range of hard and soft landscaping methods will be used to close off some of the entryways.

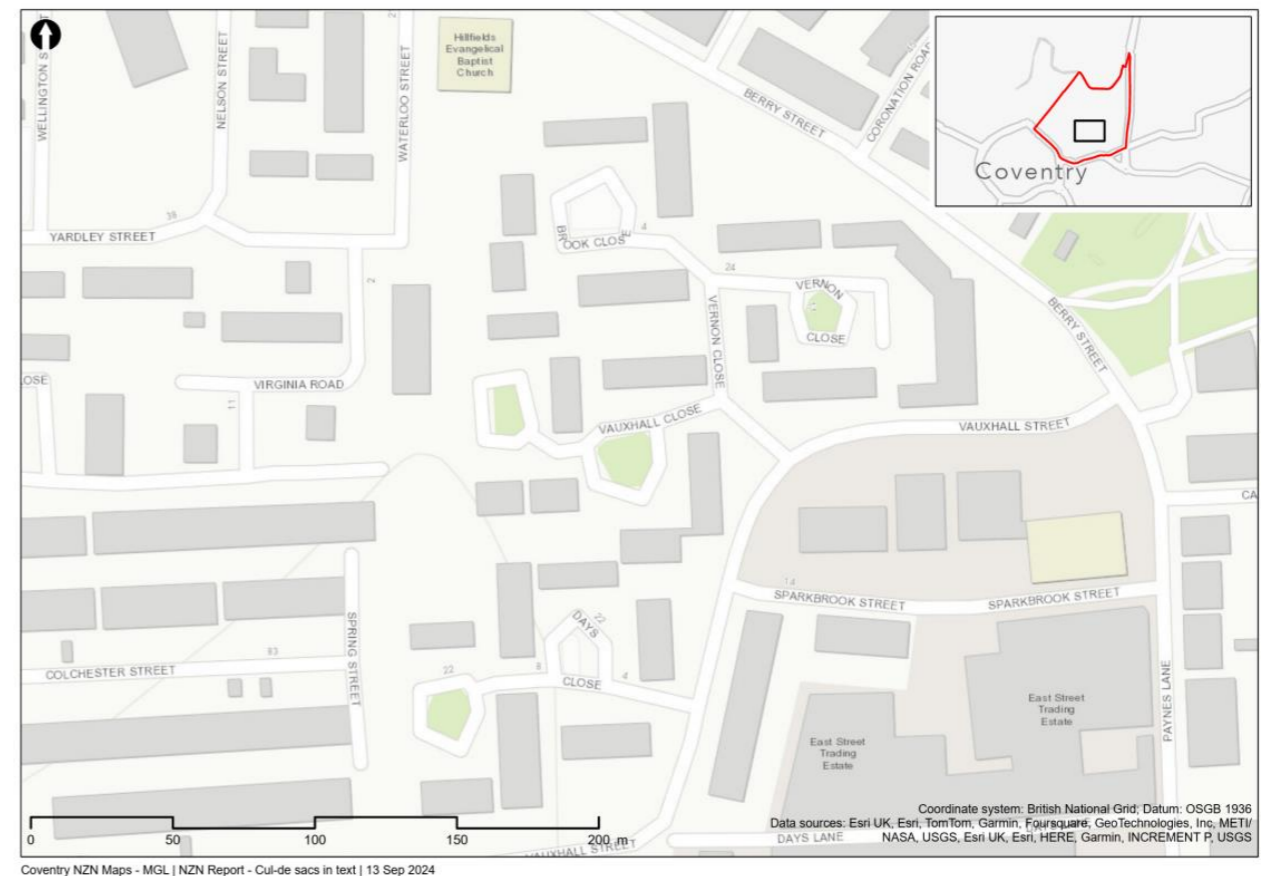



Figure 24: Satellite image of six cul-de-sacs known locally as The Closes



**Interventions
summary:
Natural environment**

Portfolio of Interventions

Natural environment

Natural environment and green spaces interventions are closely connected with active travel and community growth. They all aim to improve local environment (air quality, biodiversity, water retention) and the wellbeing and health of community members. Greener streets improve the quality of the public environment, encourage walking and cycling while reducing car use. Involvement in community gardening groups and local food production can continue to improve community bonds and knowledge about the natural environment and sustainable food production. Encouraging and supporting gardening and tree planting in private gardens can substantially increase green cover within the estate and increase biodiversity and amenity value as well as contribute to urban cooling.

Intervention	Cost	Timescale	Potential funding	Logic model correlation
Greening streets	Varies – Wildlife Trust can provide free trees	Immediate	Aviva Community Fund/IM Properties Community Fund	Proportion of green spaces, trees and biodiversity increase, natural infrastructure maximises carbon sequestration
Convert unused land and brownfield sites into greenspaces	Costs vary	Immediate	Veolia Environmental Trust Community Grant Scheme/IM Properties Community Fund	Residents have reasonable access to greenspaces, proportion of green spaces, trees and biodiversity increase, natural infrastructure maximises carbon sequestration
Transform/improve low quality green spaces	Costs vary	Immediate	Aviva Community Fund/IM Properties Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund Nature in Towns and Cities Fund, Severn Trent	Residents have reasonable access to greenspaces, proportion of green spaces, trees and biodiversity increase, natural infrastructure maximises carbon sequestration
Encourage homeowners to develop small green spaces to support the wildlife corridors/SuDs	Limited associated costs	Immediate		Residents have reasonable access to greenspaces, appropriate and sustainable systems are in place to support water storage and drainage
Community beehives	Prices starting from approximately £30 per beehive	Immediate	Aviva Community Fund/IM Properties Community Fund	Residents report improvement level of health and wellbeing
Combine green corridors with pedestrian/cycle links to encourage active travel.	Costs vary	Immediate	Aviva Community Fund/IM Properties Community Fund	Proportion of green spaces, trees and biodiversity increase, natural infrastructure maximises carbon sequestration
Domestic water conservation	Limited associated costs	Immediate		
SuDs and permeable surfaces for areas most vulnerable to surface flooding	Depends on type of interventions, could be delivered under highway improvements in the area.	Immediate		Appropriate and sustainable systems are in place to support water storage and drainage
Community gardens	Run by local charity/community groups with support from Council	Immediate	The Community Garden Grants Scheme (applications close 28 th October 2024 for 2025 cohort)	Residents report improvement level of health and wellbeing
PV or green/turf roofs on bus shelter		Immediate		Buildings are connected to low carbon energy, the building generates its own energy
Pocket parks / door stop play areas	Costs vary	Long term	Football Foundation	Residents are more physically active
Green roofs and walls on community builds	Average cost for green roofs is £75-£130 per m ² (costs can be higher)	Long term		Buildings are thermally efficient

Portfolio of Interventions

Natural environment - green space development

There are several areas that have been identified that could be developed and enhanced to provide better access to playgrounds and quality greenspace. Figure 24 displays some brownfield sites that could be utilised for some of the natural environment or community growth interventions.

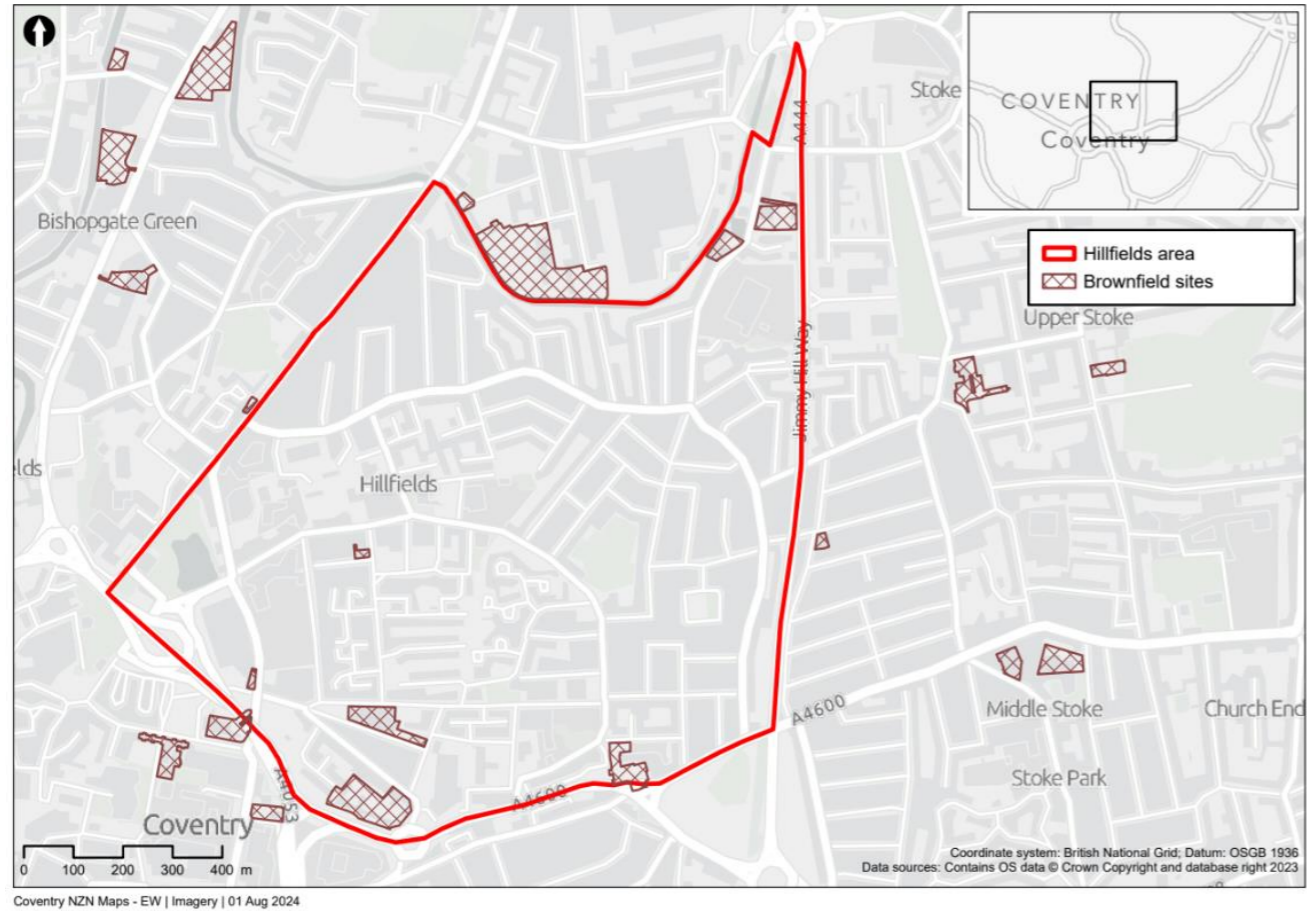


Figure 25: Brownfield site locations in and around Hillfields

If brownfield land is to be used, the sites will need to undergo testing and inspection to determine if the site will be safe to develop on.

Citizen Housing have a range of potential interventions that they would like to pursue that fall in line with the interventions outlined on the previous page.

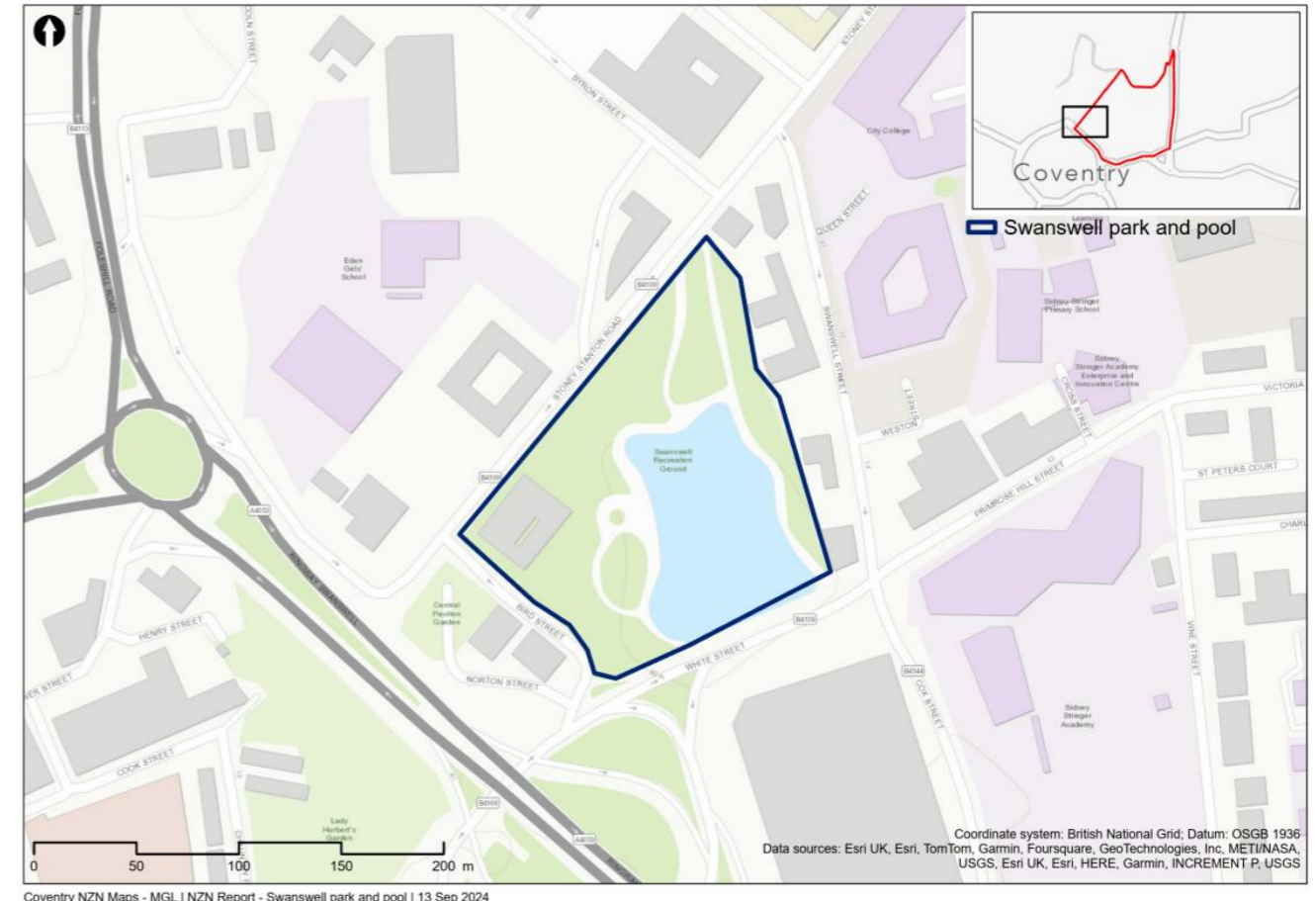


Figure 26: Satellite image of Swanswell Park and Pool

Swanswell Park and Pool is located to the north of the central Primrose Hill Street. Citizen Housing noted that the park isn't as well used as it could be and expressed interest in improving the area so that it may draw in more residents and encourage better utilisation.

Portfolio of Interventions

Natural environment - green space development

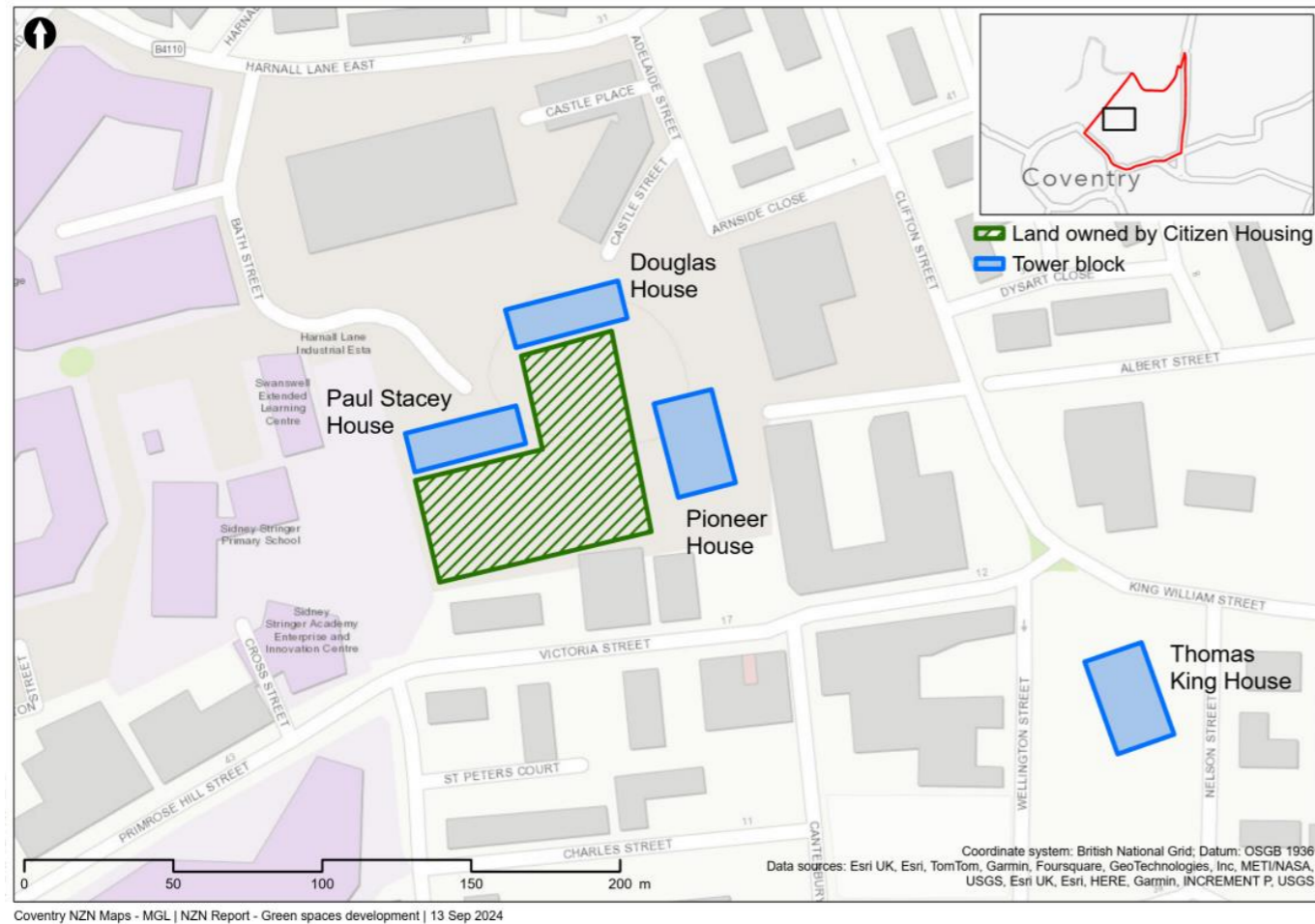


Figure 27: Satellite image of available greenspace adjacent to the village square

The land in Figure 26, outlined in green, is owned by Citizen Housing and sits between three tower blocks (Pioneer House, Thomas King House and Paul Stacey House) under their ownership. These tower blocks may have gates installed around them in future, to improve the overall safety of the buildings and for its users. The land is currently unused, and Citizen Housing have expressed interest in turning it into a protected, secure, green and environmentally friendly space for the use of the residents only (Citizen project 1). Citizen Housing have discussed their desire to improve the relationship between outdoor/shared spaces and the local community. Additionally, the creation of such spaces will provide residents with a safe outdoor space, free from crime.

Landscape architects have been engaged by Citizen Housing and discussions around this idea have commenced.

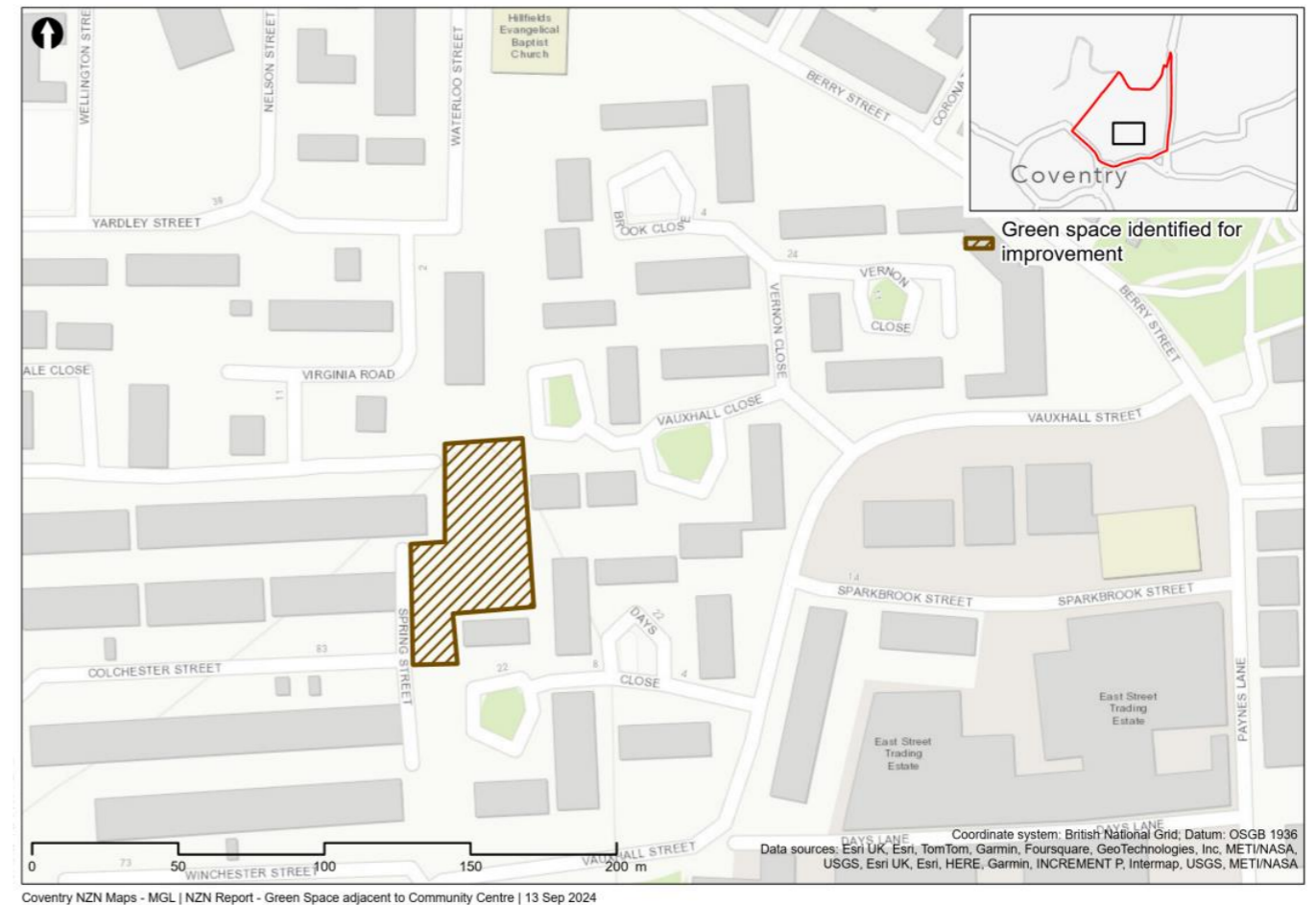



Figure 28: Satellite image of available green space adjacent to the Community Centre

Citizen Housing noted that several areas of greenspace and parks could be improved to encourage their usage (Citizen project 3). One such area is located between a series of closes and streets adjacent to Colchester street and Virginia Road, and south of Hillfield's young people's centre (Figure 28). Several usages of this field have been proposed:

- Creation of a miniature forest
- St Peters church are a prominent organisation of the community and provide food for many residents. They have suggested setting up a community food garden to provide food for the free breakfasts and lunches they already serve. The intention would be to provide an educational opportunity to residents on how to grow their own food.
- A play park/ playzones as proposed by the Coventry Consortium

The main concern for these developments is their maintenance and the additional cost to ensure these spaces are safe to be used to the community, e.g. providing additional lighting and monitoring.



**Interventions
summary:
Community growth**

Portfolio of Interventions

Community growth

The community will be the driving force behind the net zero transition and community engagement will be at heart of co-design, selection and implementation of any interventions proposed. To enable the needed long-term shift in behaviour and change towards more sustainable neighbourhoods, Coventry will be working closely with the community to support and empower local residents, identifying key community groups to ensure the NZNP builds on the actions and ambitions of the local community.

Intervention	Cost	Timescale	Potential funding	Logic model correlation
Installation of new play areas	Costs vary	Immediate	Football Foundation	Residents report improved levels of health and wellbeing
Improved school engagement, including training opportunities	Costs vary	Immediate	IM Properties Community Fund	
Education opportunities on climate change/ net-zero	Carbon Literacy Training starts from £40pp	Immediate	Carbon Literacy Training	
Engage with figureheads in the community to act as 'champions' for active travel	Limited associated costs	Immediate		Residents employ active travel method where possible, residents are more physically active
To look at accessibility for disabilities and wheelchair uses for green spaces	Costs vary – dependent on works carried out to facilitate improved accessibility	Immediate		Residents feel safe and comfortable in green spaces, residents access green spaces
Community involvement in the design of the space	Limited associated costs	Immediate		
Encouraging behaviour change e.g., litter picking	Limited associated costs, and St Peters Church already run a programme which could be utilised	Immediate		
Community tree planting	Costs vary – Wildlife Trust can provide free trees	Immediate	Aviva Community Fund	Proportion of green spaces, trees and biodiversity increase, natural infrastructure maximises carbon sequestration
Community energy generation - trial new technologies and new approaches with individual businesses	Costs vary	Long term	HNDU	
Dedicated local support e.g. local NZ Officer	Assumed a cost of 1 full time role	Immediate	WMCA Funding (already available)	Supports with overall implementation of the logic model
Organise community events	Costs vary	Immediate		
Green job training	Costs vary	Immediate	IM Properties Community Fund	

Portfolio of Interventions

Community growth – Citizen Housing focus areas

Primrose Hill and the village square

The area from where Citizen high-rise blocks are located including the locally named 'Village Square' down Primrose Hill to the Swanswell Park, is heavily used by vehicles and the public.

On this stretch of highway, there is the 'Village Square' which I, as described by Citizen, the centre of Hillfields life. They stated that if transformed from its current large blank canvas of block paving into a vibrant, environmentally friendly green space, the community would make positive use of it and levels of ASB would reduce.

Primrose Hill itself contains a large secondary school and with the local City College sited a few hundred meters away, the area is especially busy around the evenings. Currently the street scene is poor with few places to sit and there is a distinct lack of greenery. The area needs to be made more inviting for local residents to use where they will feel safer.

There have been increased efforts by police to reduce antisocial behaviour in the area. The square currently only has some markings on the ground for children, and is limited in seating and amenities. Citizen expressed the ambition to enhance the area, turning it into a place where families can congregate, and parents can safely take their children to play. This sentiment has been supported by the living streets audit and Coventry City Council who currently own the land.

Improvements to the area may include:

- Installation of a play area
- Urban greening to increase the appeal of the area
- Installation of benches/ seating areas to attract community groups and families to use the space

Developing pride in Hillfields

In the community engagement session, it was expressed that there does not appear to be a sense of pride existing in the area. St Peter's Church mentioned litter is a serious problem and have tried to combat it with running regular litter picks. St Peter's Church suggested that interventions should help in cultivating a sense of pride in the area for locals.

It was discussed that the Sidney Stringer Academy does not have recycling bins. By providing recycling facilities, supporting education around this, and enhancing the local area this will likely, by proxy, encourage people to take more care and feel more pride in their neighbourhood.

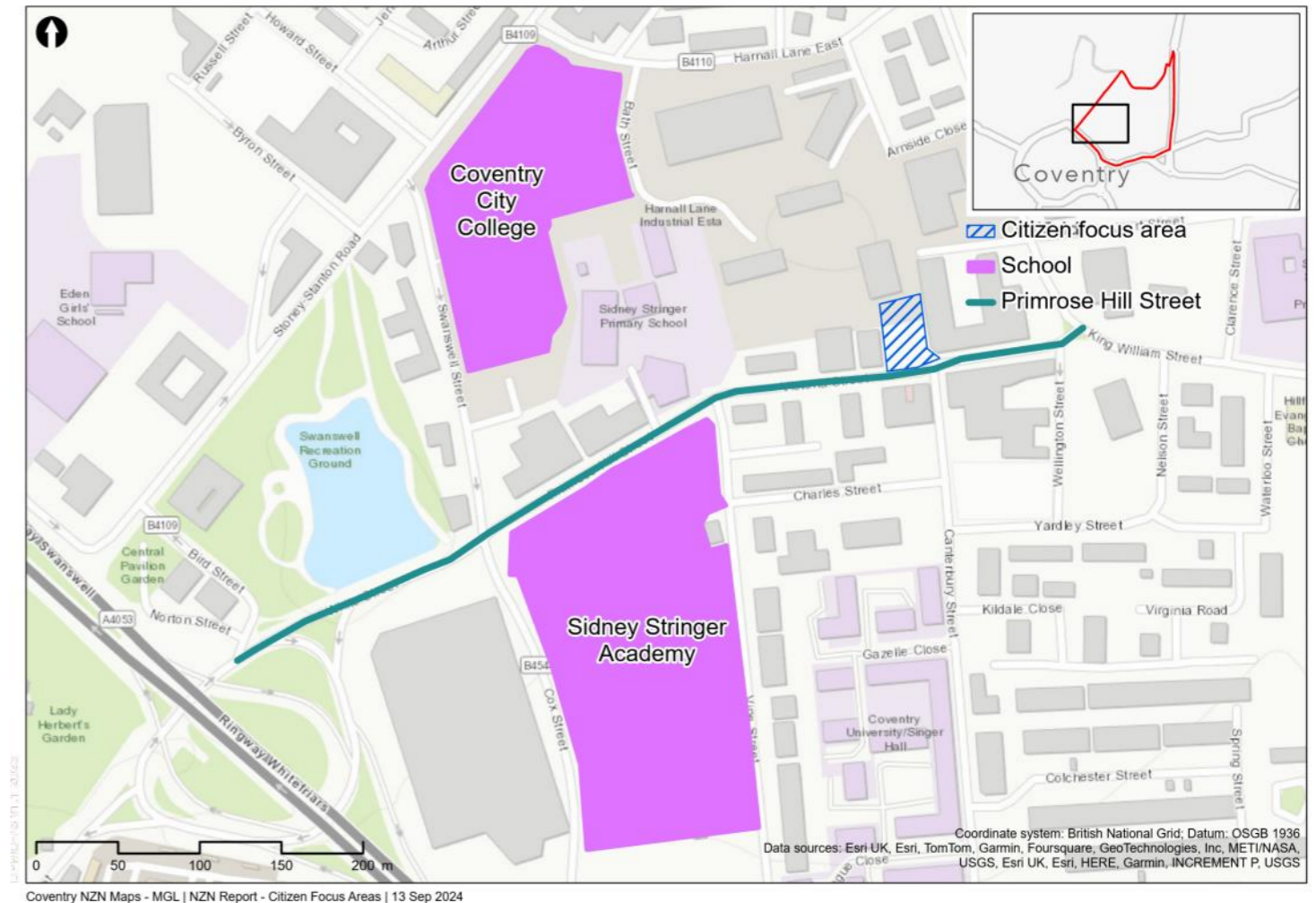



Figure 29: Hillfields Village square



Mapping of interventions to WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework

WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework

The West Midlands Inclusive Growth Framework draws on the 'Doughnut Economics' principles of living within planetary boundaries and above a baseline of acceptable living standard. It has the climate change challenge and the restoration of the environment as the outer limit on growth, and the meeting of human needs and aspirations as the inner one. To achieve the eight missions of the framework is to achieve economic strength. The interconnectedness of each is recognised, and the opportunities and challenges inherent in that brought to the fore. On the following pages we will illustrate how the proposed Net Zero Neighbourhood interventions relate to the eight framework pillars. When taken together, the interventions across all the themes make a strong contribution to regional inclusive growth across a wide range of pillars.

Community is an integral part of the One Coventry Plan 2022 – 2030. It's three delivery priorities are:

- Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities
- Improving the economic prosperity of the city and regions
- Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change

And the two enabling priorities are:

- Continued financial sustainability of the Council
- Council's role as a partner, enabler and leader

The Council are also doing a lot of work around Natural Capital opportunities, working with WMCA as part of the LINC programme and developing a pipeline of investable projects, which could lever in private investment into this programme.

The Council are also developing an Investment Prospectus which includes opportunities for green investment in measures including retrofit and infrastructure to support our transition to net zero.

The Council see the WMCA's CAMPOS project as a key tool to helping to develop the investment proposition for the NZN.

The WMCA Growth Framework has been adopted to ensure alignment with regional goals and policy and to act as an additional filter which considers the social impact of interventions.

A more deliberate and socially purposeful model of economic growth - measured not only by how fast or aggressive it is; but also by how well it is created and shared across the whole population and place, and by the social and environmental outcomes it realises for our people - an economy that shares the values of its citizens.

- West Midlands
Combined Authority definition of
Inclusive Growth



Portfolio of Interventions

Built environment interventions in relation to WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework

Key:	Direct impact	Indirect
	X	O

	Climate Resilience	Affordable and Safe Places	Connected Communities	Education and Learning	Health and Wellbeing	Equality	Inclusive Economy	Power, Influence and Participation
Light retrofit homes	X	X			O			
Heavy retrofit (windows, etc..)	X	X			O			
Domestic heat pumps	X	O			O			
Domestic solar PV	X	O			O			
Community buildings PV	X	O			O			
Tower block centralised heating system	X	O			O		O	
Small residential district heating	X	O			O		O	
Have a landlord forum which can be used to gain buy-in from private landlords	O			X				X
Car parks for solar	X							

Portfolio of Interventions

Low carbon mobility and active travel interventions in relation to WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework

Key:	Direct impact	Indirect
	X	O

	Climate Resilience	Affordable and Safe Places	Connected Communities	Education and Learning	Health and Wellbeing	Equality	Inclusive Economy	Power, Influence and Participation
Bike ability - cycle confidence training , focus on women	O		X	X	O	X		X
Dr Bike sessions at local businesses	O		X	X		X		X
On street EV charging	O		O					
Workplace EV charging	O		O					
School active travel programmes	O		X	X	X	X		X
Cycle parking at convenient locations	O	X	X		O			
Liveable neighbourhoods	O	X	X		X			
On-street cycle hangars	O	X	X		O			
Expand already existing cycle hire scheme	O	X	X		O			
Safer route to city centre	O	X	X		O			
Promotional offers to promote active travel - discounts e.g., discount on refurbished bikes for residents from low-income backgrounds	O	X	X		O			
Car sharing scheme	O		X					X
Levies on parking spaces at work places	O		X					
Utilising VLR programme	O		X					
Combine green corridors with pedestrian/cycle links to encourage active travel.	X	X	X		X			
Mobility hub at Pool Meadow Bus Station	O	X	X		O			

Portfolio of Interventions

Natural environment interventions in relation to WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework

Key:	Direct impact	Indirect
	X	O

	Climate Resilience	Affordable and Safe Places	Connected Communities	Education and Learning	Health and Wellbeing	Equality	Inclusive Economy	Power, Influence and Participation
Greening streets	X				X			
Brown sites available which could be converted to green spaces / parklets - utilise other unused land also	X				X			
Transform low quality green spaces/ Improving quality of greenspace	O				X			
Encourage homeowners, particularly those with larger gardens, to develop small green spaces to support the wildlife corridors.	X			X	X			X
Community beehives	X			X	O			X
Identify corridors to greenspace with schools etc and general green corridors	X		O		X			
Food growing opportunities	X	O		X	X		O	X
Domestic water conservation	X	O		X			O	O
SuD's and permeable surfaces for areas most vulnerable to surface flooding	X	O						
Community gardens	X			X	O			X
PV on bus shelters	O							
Green/turf roofs on bus shelters	X							
Pocket parks / door stop play areas	O		X		O			
Green roofs and walls on community builds	X				O			
Greening streets	X				X			

Portfolio of Interventions

Community growth interventions in relation to WMCA Inclusive Growth Framework

Key:	Direct impact	Indirect
	X	O

	Climate Resilience	Affordable and Safe Places	Connected Communities	Education and Learning	Health and Wellbeing	Equality	Inclusive Economy	Power, Influence and Participation
Installation of new play areas					O			
Engage local schools in a fun and creative way - e.g. an art competition on what a sustainable neighbourhood looks like	O			X	X			X
Education opportunities on climate change/ net-zero	X			X	O	O		X
Engage with figureheads in the community to act as 'champions' for active travel	O		O	O				X
To look at accessibility for disabilities and wheelchair uses for green spaces					X	X		X
Local artists to have a 'paint festival' in urban spaces to showcase the community identity and promote local people (Cheltenham example)								X
Link with the community - training with schools				X				X
Community involvement in the design of the space - link in with local groups							O	X
Encouraging behaviour change - litter picking					X			X
Community tree plant in the space that they will benefit from so they foster/form a connection with space they may use on active travel - word will spread - direct contribution and signals ownership of place to locals	X			O	X			X
Community energy generation - trial new technologies and new approaches with individual businesses	X			X			X	X
Community gardens great for building community connections and also access to good quality fruit and veg	X	O		X	X			X
Dedicated local support e.g. local NZ Officer	O			X			X	X
Work with residents to turn their car park/ garden space at the front to something that can help with flooding	X	X		X	X			X
Organise community events					X			X

Community Engagement Approach



Community Engagement Approach

Objectives and approach

This section sets out the approach that will be taken for community engagement and communications on the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan (NZNP) for Hillfields. It includes best practice methodology for community engagement and public consultation to support effective programme delivery.

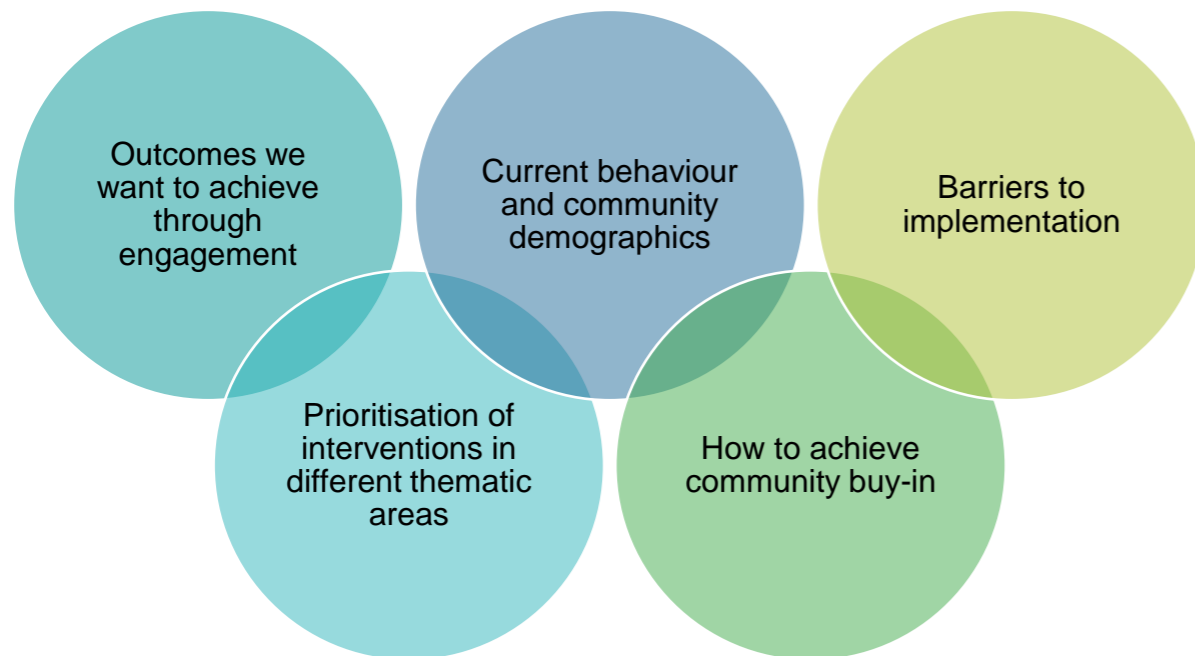
The community is critical to the success of the scheme. It is our intention to develop strong and effective relationships with all community leaders to build trust and confidence. Building these relationships from an early stage of the project will reduce the risk of ineffective communications and a lack of trust in the plan.

We recognise that different stakeholders and members of the community have different interests and priorities, and that effective delivery of the NZNP requires a meaningful engagement process, both in introducing the scheme and during continued engagement.

The key objectives of this plan are:

- To provide consistent and effective leadership and control of all community engagement.
- To create positive stakeholder participation in NZNP development.
- To identify and mitigate key NZNP stakeholder and community engagement risks.

Key to understanding how we approach engagement are the following elements:



The Community Engagement Plan approach brings together the following elements to create a tailored plan that will help secure the success of the NZNP as it is introduced to the community.

- **Best practice principles** – best practice principles for engagement are the starting point to successful delivery of the NZNP
- **Community context** – a baseline understanding of who the community is (see Understanding the Local Area section above)
- **Evidence** – an exploration of how the community might perceive or experience proposals. This is to better understand how to approach each issue, based on published evidence and engagement with the Council and any previous engagement on the topic.
- **Communication channels** – different methods of communication, to be tailored to the appropriate audience.
- **Key messages and recommendations** – Based on evidence, key messages and recommendation for carrying out engagement in each key thematic area.

Community Engagement Approach

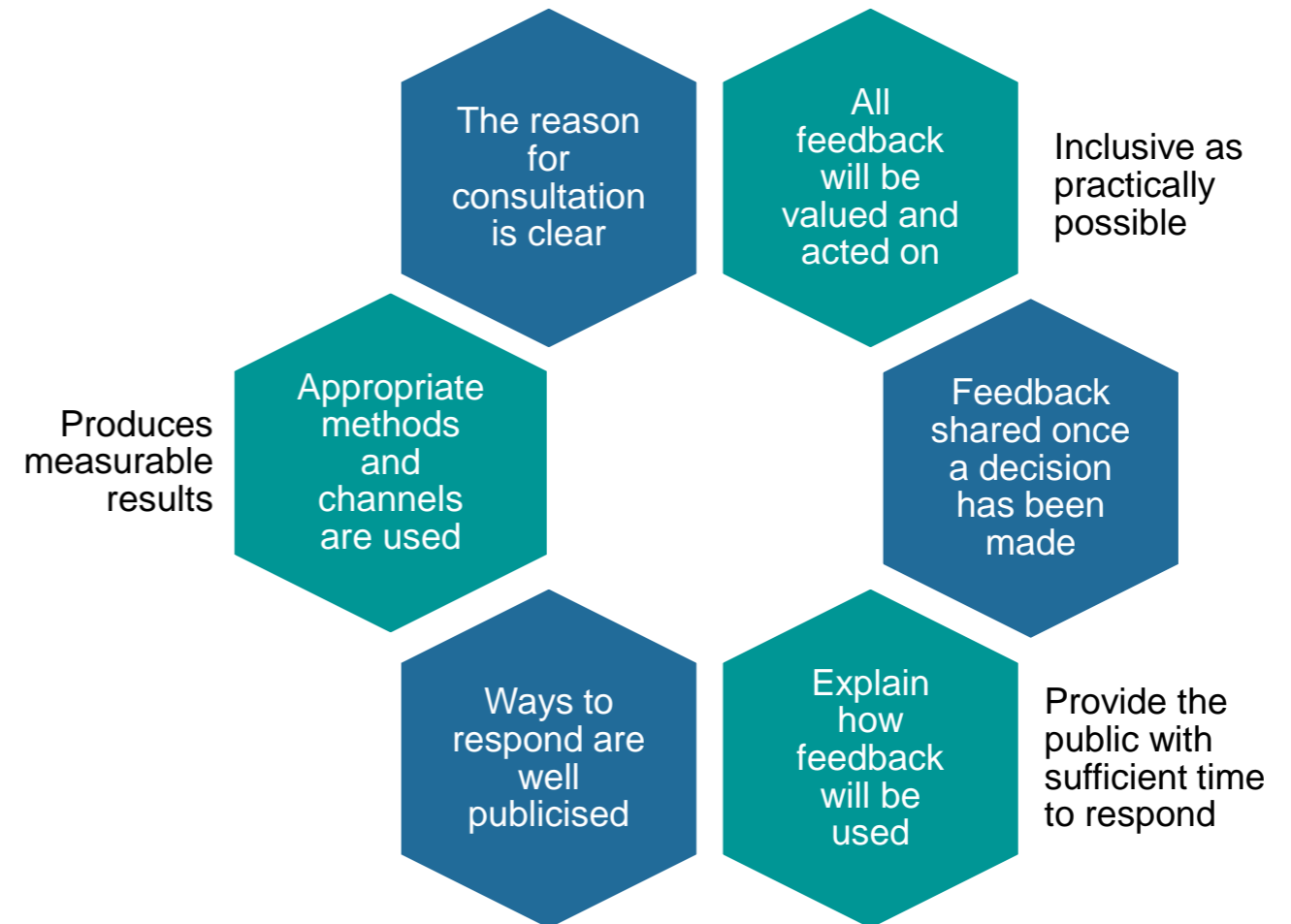
Principles of community engagement

For a successful delivery of the NZNP, identifying, engaging and involving the community in the plan development, and thus facilitating their influence on decision making, is key. This is supported by 3Ci's approach for effective community engagement on the path to net zero. 3Ci outline three steps to effectively engage the community:

- **Co-plan:** Understand the local context and prepare the groundwork for effective community engagement for your net zero project.
- **Co-design:** Collaboratively design net zero projects with community input. This step emphasizes shared decision making and governance, ensuring that community needs and ideas shape project design.
- **Co-deliver:** Involve communities in project governance as decisionmakers and delivery partners, alongside local authority staff and other project partners.

If this process is well managed, it will create a long-term, trusted two-way relationship. The Community Engagement Plan has been designed so engagement adheres to best practise principles for engagement:

- **Engagement will enable informed opinion.** NZNP engagement will fully outline its purpose and explain how results will be used. Explaining to stakeholders how their feedback will add value can increase response rate.
- **Engagement will be well planned and timely.** The community will be given adequate time to submit their response. Sufficient time will be allowed so the consultation results can be properly analysed, fed into the consultation report and directly into the decision-making process.
- **Engagement will be inclusive.** The approach will explicitly target a representative cross-section of views from the community. Specialised engagement will be used for hard to reach, marginalised and/or vulnerable groups.
- **Engagement will be undertaken using appropriate methods.** Consultation feedback will be captured via face to face and digital methods.
- **Engagement results will be acknowledged and fully considered.** The analysis will draw attention to areas of agreement and disagreement and will be compiled into a consultation report for client consideration and design review.
- **Engagement will be managed in a collaborative way** across the various agencies, involving frontline workers and service providers including areas such as training and skills providers, advice workers, car, social and health workers.

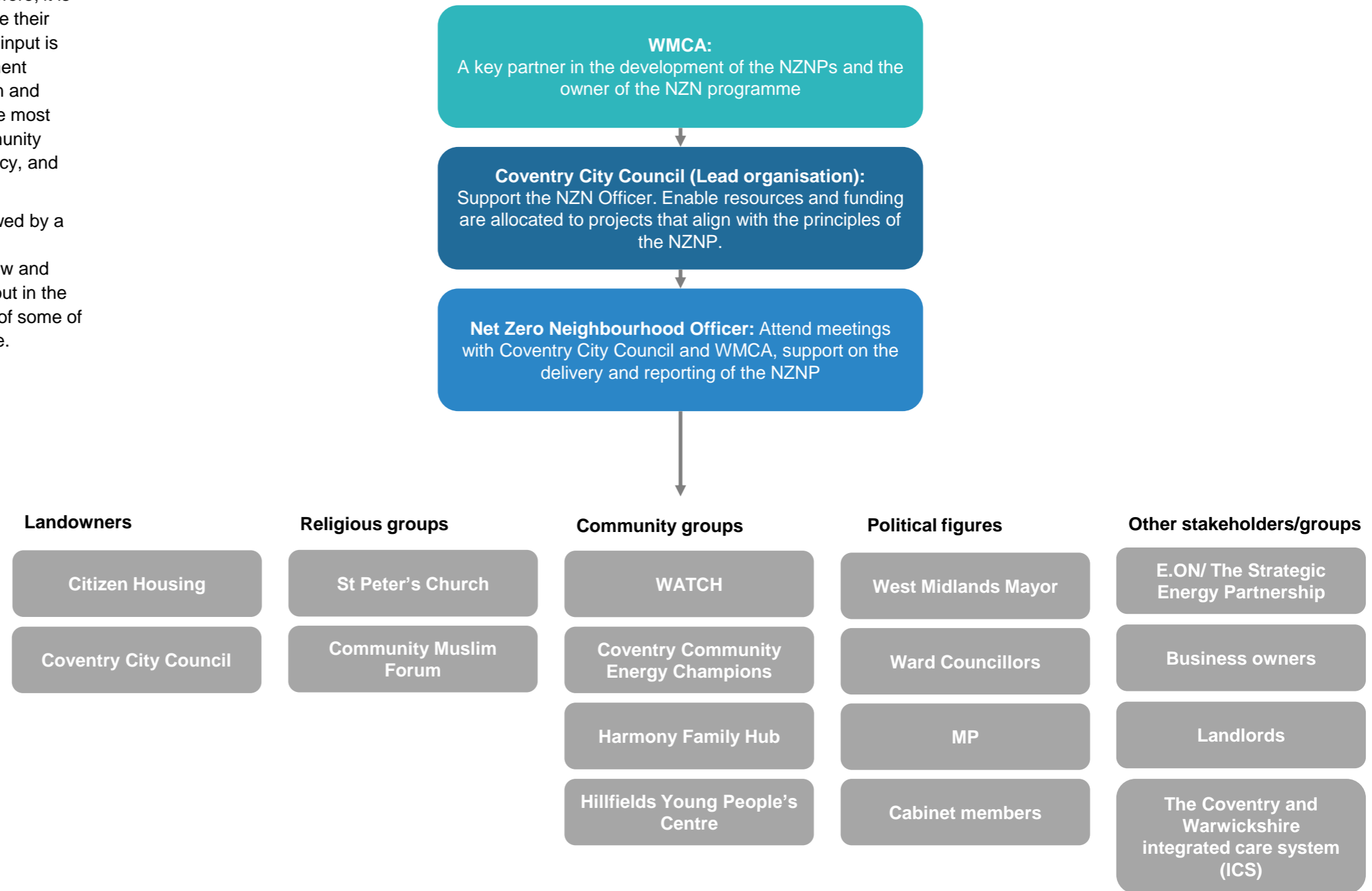


Community Engagement Approach

Key stakeholders

The NZNP will impact a wide range of stakeholders. Therefore, it is important that they are engaged at an early stage to ensure their needs, views and options are taken into account and their input is used to help with the development of the NZNP. Engagement provides valuable stakeholder insight to help inform design and shapes the development of appropriate messaging and the most effective communications channels to use. Effective community engagement will build wider NZNP understanding, advocacy, and support.

The stakeholder landscape will regularly need to be reviewed by a Community Engagement Team to ensure emerging groups/individuals are being considered. An in-depth review and stakeholder identification exercise will need to be carried out in the early stages. The following diagram is a high-level review of some of the key stakeholders that have been identified at this stage.



Community Engagement Approach

Channels of engagement

Communication channel	Aim	Details	Audience	Proposed timing
One-to-one meetings	Raise NZNP awareness –introduce/discuss proposed interventions with key community, local, regional stakeholders; share issues/ concerns; refine interventions and how they are approached.	For some stakeholders e.g. Citizen Housing, political stakeholders, it would be more appropriate to hold one-to-one meetings.	Political stakeholders Citizen Housing Ad-hoc stakeholders	December 2024
Multi-stakeholder discussions	Raise NZNP awareness - introduce/discuss proposed interventions with key community, local, regional stakeholders; share issues/ concerns; refine interventions and how they are approached.	An initial workshop will be required with core community groups to discuss the proposal. The aim of this initial workshop should be to agree priorities, discuss barriers and provide input to implementation. A further outcome should be the formation of a Community Working Group which will see the implementation of the NZNP through to completion. An existing group, 'Thriving Hillfields', already exists who regularly meet up for discussions. This could be utilised during consultation period and as the Plan progresses.	Community groups Local schools	December 2024
NZNP Information Hub	Raise awareness/ build understanding and satisfy interest. Gain feedback on proposals and identify issues/ concerns that need to be considered and addressed.	A community centre could be used as an 'NZNP Information Hub' where a dedicated individual would be stationed on particular times/days to promote the survey while it is live, provide information about the NZNP and provide support and signposting to information on interventions.	Local residents	March 2025
Online public consultation platform	Provide a means of gathering feedback and sharing information with community representatives.	Dedicated webpage with NZNP details and an embedded survey to gather public feedback. This should cover household demographics, barriers to implementation and concerns, priorities and ideas for implementation, to help achieve greater community buy-in.	Local residents	December 2024 (avoid Christmas period)
In-person community events	Provide a means of gathering feedback, sharing information with the community and generating energy and community spirit around the NZNP, generating further interest and buy-in.	In person events to foster a sense of community and also provide a way to gather public feedback. Suggested events include: - Cycling clinics: how to ride and repair bicycles - School sessions: school engagement sessions on a range of topics including recycling, active travel, reducing energy consumption - Community fun days: host a NZNP booth at such events that can help promote interventions across project in a fun and engaging way St Peter's Church and WATCH already host quarterly community events, which are well received by the public. Additionally, there are Council owned Family Hubs and Libraries which are a good opportunity to disseminate through these and host engagement events.	Local residents	March 2025 (outdoor events will have to be put on hold till spring/summer 2025)
Community liaison officer	Provide a trusted source of information for the community	It is suggested that a community liaison officer is brought on board to be a trusted person within the community who can provide information on the project through from inception to completion.	Local residents	March 2025

Community Engagement Approach

Channels of engagement

Communication channel	Aim	Details	Audience	Proposed timing
Community competitions and demonstrator projects	Provide a way of 'gamifying' the transition to Net Zero and making it fun, encouraging a wider intersection of people to get involved, such as local business, children and young people.	Competitions might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active travel challenges in school - Community growing competitions, similar to Britain in Bloom Demonstrator projects might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retrofitting of community buildings e.g. community centre 	Local residents	March 2025 (outdoor events to be put on hold until spring/summer 2025)
Informational materials	Provide detailed information on the NZNP and interventions.	At the outset, it will be important for all residents to receive a flyer informing them of what the NZNP is, information on how they can access the website and survey and further details on the Information Hub. Single page flyers can be produced thereafter and distributed at local community centres to help support with keeping the locals informed on what is happening on the NZNP.	Local residents	December 2024 (to help promote the survey)
Media relations	Proactive/timely communications at key milestones – to raise awareness, deliver key messages and promote good news outcomes. Reactively handle further interest, according to agreed lines-to-take.	Use of social media channels and marketing team to extend 'reach.' To support day to day handling and promotion of key milestones – including consultation events.	Local residents	December 2024 (to help promote the survey)
Council and partner communication channels	To work together with local authority/key stakeholder communications teams to extend reach of NZNP messages.	Will enable access to wider audiences, synchronise messages and ensure consistency of information and message. To support day to day handling and promotion of key milestones – including consultation events. It is suggested dedicated NZNP social media accounts are created to increase community interest and buy-in. The WATCH Community group also have a radio station calls Hillz FM, which during a stakeholder engagement session was offered as an option to spread messages/information in regard to the NZNP.	Local residents	December 2024 (to help promote the survey)
Retrofit liaison officer	Allow for an individual in the Council or a third party (e.g., Furbnow) to act as an officer that will support with the customer journey throughout the retrofit process.	Managing the customer journey for retrofit across different tenures (social housing, owner occupier, PRS). Regular support session can be hosted in a community hub, open to all residents, and act as a platform for open conversation and queries surrounding retrofit.	Local residents	March 2025

Additionally, it should be considered, where possible, to translate informational materials and communications to the most common languages spoken in Hillfields. A large majority of the residents do not speak English as a first language, which could pose issues when trying to relay information.

The WATCH community group already have several volunteers who speak a range of languages to help support with communications with the residents. This could be something to explore when looking into translating messages. The Council website already allows for resources to be accessed in different languages, but this may need to be applied across physical resources as well if not already.

Community Engagement Approach

Key messages and recommendations

Communicating of the plan to locals must have a clear message. To help assist with this, some key considerations are outlined in this section. The aim of this is to create messaging that is able to target barriers, encourage buy-in and influence behaviour change.

Messaging needs to be delivered in a tone which is friendly, open and honest to help cultivate a trusting relationship between all parties involved. Expectations need to be managed appropriately through messaging and clarity provided on how community inputs will be considered.

Intervention category	Key consideration	Recommendation	Example messages
Built environment	Communicating the health and financial benefits of retrofit	A community liaison officer should be engaged to target low-income homes and homes with vulnerable groups (e.g., children, elderly and disabled people), through a door knocking exercise. Information should be made available online about the health risks associated with cold homes and the health and financial benefits of retrofitting.	“Cold homes can affect your health and the health of your household, ranging from blood pressure increase, common colds and pneumonia.” “We can help you cut energy costs through helping you make your home more efficient” “Invest in your home’s future and start saving today.”
	Addressing the negative perceptions around the cost of retrofitting and energy efficient infrastructure	Information on the benefits of energy efficiency can be distributed directly to households or made available online.	“We can help fund, organise and support you in making a more efficient home” “Don’t miss out on government grants and incentives.”
Low carbon mobility and active travel	Communicating the health benefits of shifting away from car travel and promoting active travel	Community engagement officers could encourage those with lower levels of confidence to make use of existing/new schemes that will support them with becoming confident on the road. Additional engagement material should be produced to encourage walking as a healthy alternative. Active travel should feature in conversations regarding potential cost saving measures when compared to driving a car.	“We can help you learn to cycle safely, no matter your age or ability level.” “Active travel can offer a convenient, accessible and affordable way to move more. Social rides are a great way to spend time with your family and get to know your neighbours.”
	Addressing perceptions of crime/safety during travel	During engagement events, community engagement officers should listen to people's concerns around crime/safety and suggest potential mitigation measures. Special attention should be given to groups who are more at risk. As initiatives are rolled out, an emphasis should always be provided around safety to reassure the public.	“We are working on making green spaces and walking routes safer and more attractive and want to hear about your experiences”
	Negative perceptions about switching to EV	There is an array of programs and support from a national and local level to help people switch to an electric vehicle. These existing resources should be linked to via the online platform alongside and FAQs section that can address any questions that people may have. This information can also be provided via flyers and the Information Hub.	“As electric vehicles are more affordable to maintain, they can often be a better value investment over the long term.” ”Government funding is available to help you purchase an electric vehicle”
	Reduction of on-street parking	Reduction of on-street parking will be a key issue among residents. It will be important to provide travel alternatives and reasoning as to why reduced parking will be beneficial for the area e.g. to make space for pocket parks, improve safety nearer to schools.	“We are reducing on-street parking to make room for safer active travel and new community spaces”

Community Engagement Approach

Key messages and recommendations

Intervention category	Key consideration	Recommendation	Example messages
Natural environment	Benefits of access to greenspace	A great way to get people understanding and caring for green spaces and the environment is through practical learning and regular use of these spaces. There is an opportunity to get children involved in learning about ecosystems and habitation creation and protection through school programmes. Additionally, events and clubs should be encouraged to make best use of green spaces such as a gardening or jogging club that can make use of the existing spaces.	<p>“Greenspaces are vital for our well-being!”</p> <p>“Greenspaces are multifunctional spaces and can be used for a variety of activities, whether it’s a walk, a picnic, or just some quiet time.”</p>
	Benefits of a healthy environment	It is important for residents to understand why a healthy environment is important, as this could aid in maintenance of existing/new spaces. Messaging can be created to help encourage locals develop a sense of responsibility in regard to the natural environment.	<p>“By planting native trees, we can improve air quality for you and your children and create a better place to live.”</p>
	Food growing opportunities	A gardening club and creation of allotments can create opportunities for people to get involved in growing their own food. Encouraging an active community of people who are involved can help information sharing and participation from those less experienced. It is recommended that older people, disabled people and children in particular are involved in community growing, as they stand to benefit the most from these activities.	<p>“Growing your own food is great way to save money and eat more healthily.”</p> <p>“Joining a community gardening group can help you meet people in your community and learn from each other.”</p>
Community growth	Education, information and communication	<p>Establishing strong links with local schools is vital in educating children on the importance and advantages of achieving net-zero. Additionally, having easy to read and understandable information available online and at events will empower people to make positive changes.</p> <p>The community need to be made aware of the net zero plan and proposed interventions through as wide range of communications channels as possible, including existing groups, business, flyers, online and door to door knocking.</p>	<p>“Understanding net zero is crucial for our future!”</p> <p>“Knowledge empowers us to make informed choices, support green initiatives, and ensure a healthier planet for generations to come.”</p>

Community Engagement Approach

Additional considerations

Community awareness

There is already an active presence in the community, via a range of different community groups who offer a range of services and support to the residents of Hillfields. This includes an energy champions initiative supported by WATCH.

The existence and development of such initiatives, helps raise awareness and provide residents with knowledge on energy related issues. Therefore, it can be assumed that a portion of the community have working knowledge on energy and other sustainability initiatives and issues that are discussed by community groups.

However, it cannot be assumed that all residents have awareness and knowledge on these topics. It is recommended that the NZN Office conducts a baselining activity to better understand the level of awareness and identify gaps that need to be addressed. This will improve the delivery of messaging to residents.

Small businesses

Through a stakeholder engagement session with local figures in Hillfields, the issue around the lack of support available for small businesses was raised. The NZN Officer and Community Engagement Team should ensure that an adequate level of support is provided for businesses also.

Existing initiatives, such as the Decarbonisation Net Zero Programme (DNZ), should be promoted to ensure local business owners have awareness of such schemes and are able to utilise them effectively.

A Hillfields Supermarket has already been awarded a grant of £24,750 from the DNZ Programme. The NZN Officer could explore the idea of creating a forum for businesses so they can share their experiences with those who have less knowledge around these schemes and discuss the impacts this has had on their business. Having support and hearing from a fellow local business owner is likely to be more impactful when aiding businesses on their journey to improve energy efficiency.

Resources

Most engagement will require a level of resource. The below list is not extensive, but provides a high-level overview of the general considerations for resources:

- **Staff:** this can be approached by having ongoing support from the NZN Officer and also utilising stakeholders who have direct contact with the community e.g. WATCH Community Group, to support with certain aspects of engagement.
- **Venue:** this will vary depending on the channel utilised. There can be a mixture of online delivery and in person. Where possible, in-person events can be hosted in local community venues.
- **Budget:** the budget required will vary depending on the channel of engagement utilised.

Training

It is important that all staff and supporting stakeholders receive adequate training prior to engaging with the community. There is a range of support that could be used. The New Economics Foundation (NEF) offers courses and workshops to Local Authorities to help with delivering engagement. There is a focus on ensuring that engagement is done in a manner that places power in the hands of the community.

Further support and publications are detailed in NEF's publication "Participation Works!³".

³ New Economics Foundation. (1998). Participation Works! 21 Techniques of Community Participation for the 21st Century. New Economics Foundation.
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Community Engagement Approach

Risks and opportunities

A detailed understanding of the potential stakeholder risks will become clearer once community engagement is formally initiated. All key risks will be recorded in a community engagement database and programme risk register. Further mitigation measures for these should also be developed at the next stage with the NZNP Officer. This will be shared with the wider team to action and mitigate as required. Potential stakeholder risks and associated mitigation include:

Stakeholder risk	Mitigation measures
Dissatisfied stakeholders: not all proposals will be viewed as favourable and certain stakeholders will have issue with some or all NZNP elements. This is usual and the community will manage stakeholders to develop satisfactory conclusions as appropriate. The engagement will also be used to assist with educating the public about the purpose of the funding for the NZNP, to manage expectations about NZNP delivery.	Ensure appropriate communications, especially when stakeholders have raised concerns on certain matters/proposals. Concerns and opinions should be logged as part of the development of a proposal and taken into consideration when moving forward.
Inadequate engagement: there is a potential risk of proposals and plans moving forward without enough input and consultation with residents and other stakeholders. This will likely lead to a poor working relationships and dissatisfied stakeholders.	The Community Engagement team should be responsible for ensuring that community engagement and consultation is adequate and compliant, safeguarding the reputations of CCC and the NZNP.
Equality risks: It is important that engagement is as inclusive as possible and uses the recommended approach set out to make sure people from all different backgrounds are included in engagement. In addition to engagement, it is also important to understand the ways in which people may experience interventions differently based on who they are, to ensure engagement and messaging is targeted and people get the support they need to make the intervention a success.	A targeted group approach could be adopted during consultation periods, where stakeholders from similar backgrounds are grouped together to ensure a range of opinions are considered and impacts on these groups are not overlooked.
Timeliness / constrained programme: programme constraints mean timeframes are limited during which engagement can be undertaken, therefore engagement must be focussed and must not extend beyond what is proposed in this plan. This risk will be managed if the engagement team undertakes their responsibilities in a timely manner to facilitate the outcomes we want to achieve through engagement.	Where possible, engagement will need to start as early as possible, to ensure engagement is carried out appropriately and for there to be time to react to the findings of each session.

Stakeholder opportunities

Effective community engagement and consultation will provide opportunities for stakeholders. Potential stakeholder opportunities may include:

- Positive NZNP refinement through community engagement and consultation.
- Improved NZNP support through effective community engagement and consultation.
- Reduced risks of NZNP delays and cost overruns

Community Engagement Approach

Current engagement sessions

During the development of this NZNP, engagement sessions were held in order to better understand some of the work that is being carried out by organisations and to also gather a range of additional stakeholder views/inputs.

The first session was with Citizen Housing and allowed for them to share some of the potential plans they have for the areas of land they own in Hillfields. Alignment between the NZNP and Citizen Housing's plans were identified, mainly surrounding the natural environment and community growth interventions. Details of the ideas discussed have been documented in the Portfolio of Interventions section. In summary, Citizen Housing aim to deploy interventions that will enhance the natural environment, improve the relationship residents have with the natural environment and improve safety/drive down crime within Hillfields. Citizen Housing have engaged landscape architects to improve their understanding of the potential of these ideas, but plans are still at a very early stage and not definitive at this point.

A second session was held with the following groups in attendance:

- Coventry City Council
- WATCH Community Group
- Community Muslim Forum
- St Peter's Church

This session was hosted as an open forum, which allowed the group to discuss a range of topics including how engagement should be best carried out, who will need to be engaged, potential issues with the development of the NZNP and areas of opportunity for interventions. Some of the key discussion points raised were:

- Consultation will require input from trusted parties, such as community groups, in order to have buy-in and support from the community.
- There is a large problem surrounding a lack of pride for the area and ASB, which will need to simultaneously be tackled as interventions are deployed.
- There is already many community groups which could be engaged, but there is a need to develop something that will support businesses (small, local businesses have showed willingness to take steps towards sustainability/greening their operations but they do not know how to do this and do not have the support they require).
- Community groups have a strong desire to be involved as previous government initiatives have taken place but then are abandoned with no communication. The groups expressed a sense of needing greater accountability from Government/LA when such projects are carried out.
- Hillfields had many community assets such as a small local farm, allotments and parks. All of which disappeared over the years due to poor maintenance and management and lack of funding. These were highlighted as areas that could be redeveloped but an emphasis was placed on ensuring maintenance was carried out to prevent the spaces from becoming neglected.

- The St Peter's building is already a community hub as they provide free breakfasts and lunches for residents, and they'd like to extend this by opening a café in the building to draw more people in. St Peters would like to expand their building as they are aiming to provide a warm hub for residents and would benefit from a more energy efficient building. In future, when community buildings are considered, this could be a starting point for the NZNP.
- Businesses have struggled with retrofitting their buildings despite there being grants available, due to having to match funding which is not feasible for small local businesses and community groups.

The Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) innovation team were also engaged during the development of this plan. The session with the innovation team was focussed around establishing alignment and synergies between the work being carried out for the SEP's Energy Masterplan for Coventry project and the NZNP. The team identified that the general direction of the NZNP showed alignment with the work of the SEP, particularly with the idea of developing district heating networks.

A core issue that was discussed for the NZNP and the SEP's Energy Master Planning project, is being able to get buy-in from different tenure types, with a focus on privately rented homes. This is an area of concern for both projects, but something that could be tackled together.

There are current discussions on the development of tower block heat networks around Coventry. The initial discussion does not include Hillfields, but there is potential for Hillfields to be considered in future plans. The team displayed quite an interest in the terraced housing of Hillfields and the potential for developing heat networks serving these properties.

A key point of discussion with the team was centred around combining decarbonisation of heat with regeneration of the neighbourhood. This concept would work well with the delivery of the NZNP as it captures multiple interventions under the different categories outlined in the Portfolio of Interventions section. The idea discussed was concealment of heat networks within street furniture and other urban elements. Some example case studies of this include:

- **Copenhagen City Region:** this project showcases how heat networks can be integrated into urban infrastructure, including street furniture, to minimise visual impact and maximise space efficiency.
- **Glasgow:** the Glasgow District Heating Network project highlights the use of innovative methods to integrate heat networks into the city's urban landscape, including the use of planters and benches to conceal infrastructure.

These sessions are a starting point for the development of the NZNP and have provided an insight into what potential interventions can be carried out with the support of key stakeholders, which communication forums already exist and how the NZNP can be delivered effectively with the correct level of community engagement. Further sessions will be held once funding is secured, and additional stakeholders will be engaged.

Capital Investment Approach



Capital Investment Approach

Development of Capital Investment Plan

Purpose of Capital Investment Plan

The Capital Investment Plan has been developed to estimate the overall investment required to meet the aims of the Net Zero Neighbourhood pilot.

Reflecting the primary aims of the Net Zero Neighbourhood programme, the Capital Investment Plan focuses on the costs for domestic emission reduction, with opportunities for businesses considered. The purpose of the demonstrator programme is to create an approach that can be replicated and scaled across the region. Due to the detailed understanding of the built environment of Coventry, it is the retrofit measures that are anticipated to be the most effective to scale up across Coventry and the whole of West Midlands.

Approach to development of Capital Investment Plan

Priority 1: Reducing energy demands and domestic emissions to enable a transition to net zero emissions

To reflect the aims of the Net Zero Neighbourhood, the Capital Investment Plan focuses on measures that enable the reduction of carbon emissions associated with domestic properties, the main priority of these being retrofit measures.

To address priority 1, the capital invest plan:

- Estimates total capital costs and associated carbon impacts
- Identifies current funding sources
- Identifies potential further funding sources

Priority 2: Creating a sustainable place to live

The long list of interventions suggested gives a broad range of potential ways to create a more sustainable place to live. We advise that the secondary focus of the Capital Investment Plan are the more easily implemented or impactful interventions that meet the other requirements of the net zero neighbourhood plan such as the natural environment and active travel measures. The capital envelope for these has not been quantified at this point, given the open-ended possibility and secondary priority. However, consideration has been given for:

- Comparative costs for other liveable neighbourhood schemes
- Unit rates for infrastructure



Priority 1:

Reducing energy demands and domestic emissions to enable a transition to net zero emissions

Capital Investment Plan approach:

Interventions for retrofit to reduce energy demands and decarbonising heat



Priority 2:

Creating a sustainable place to live

Capital Investment and Project Delivery Plan:

Interventions that are easily implemented and impactful on the wider approach to a sustainable community



Capital Investment Plan: Priority 1

Capital Investment Approach

Housing overview

The table below shows a breakdown of EPC ratings for both houses and flats. These figures have been used to calculate an overall figure for the following built environment interventions that will aid in reducing energy demand and decarbonising heating for homes through the following measures:

- Light retrofit
- Deep retrofit
- Air source heat pumps (ASHP)
- Domestic solar PV

Table 2: EPC rating breakdown for dwellings

EPC Rating	No. of house dwellings	No. of flat dwellings	Total
A	9	1	10
B	380	252	632
C	1846	888	2734
D	2618	438	3056
E	764	118	882
F	92	23	115
G	21	2	23

Data definitions:

- Houses are defined as buildings with the following tertiary descriptions: 'Detached', 'HMO Bedsit / Other Non Self Contained Accommodation', 'HMO Not Further Divided', 'HMO Parent', 'Semi-Detached' and 'Terraced'.
- Flats are defined as buildings with a tertiary descriptions of: 'Self Contained Flat (Includes Maisonette / Apartment)'.
- Tower blocks are defined as any building above 10m in height and with 10+ addresses. There are 23 tower blocks by this definition in Hillfields.

It should be noted that the EPC dataset of actual values is incomplete; some properties do not have up to date EPC certificates. Where data gaps exist, actual EPC data has been interpolated to accommodate for the gaps in the dataset estimating EPC ratings based upon property characteristics. Further studies will be required to understand the energy efficiency of certain properties at survey stage.

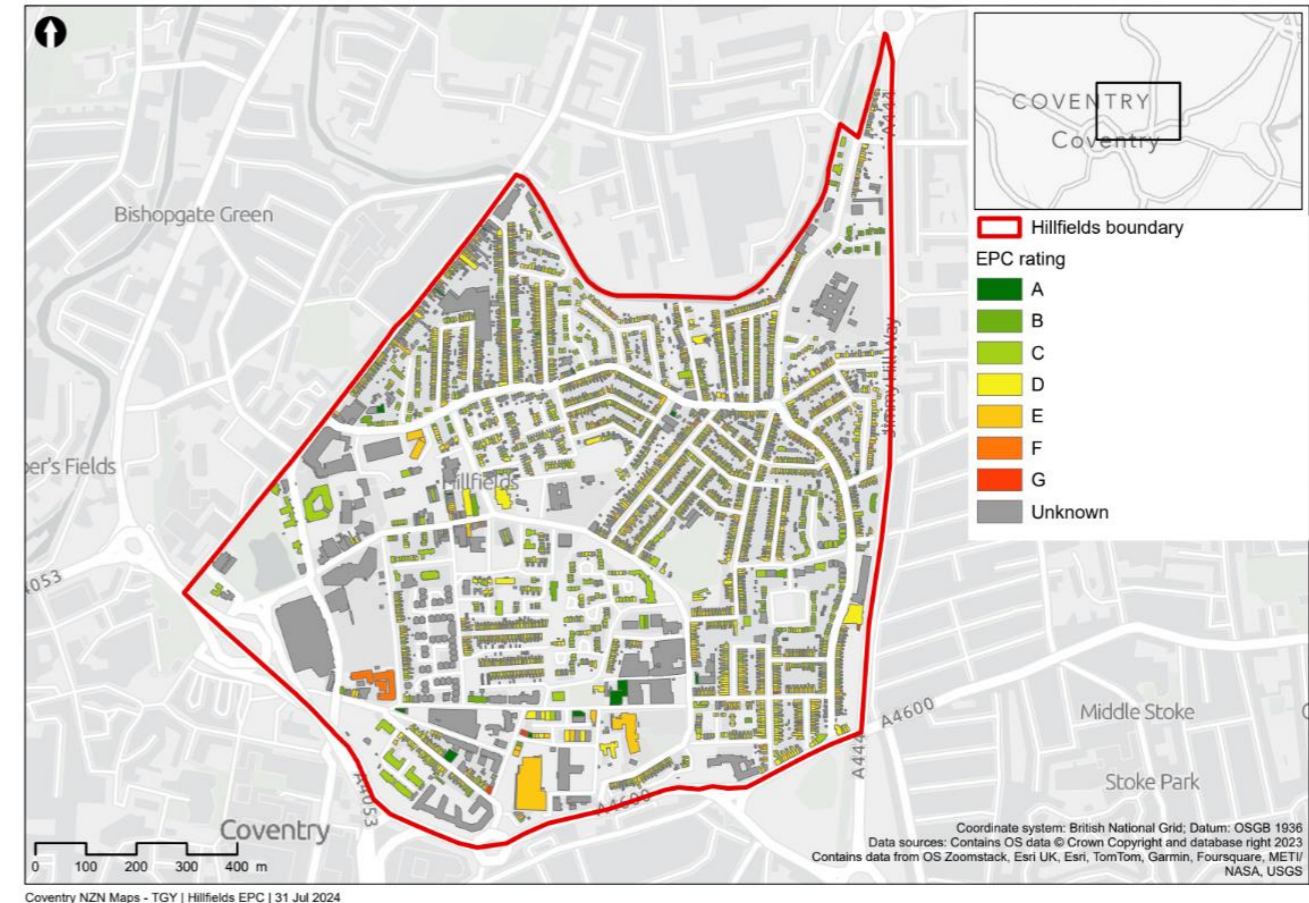


Figure 30: The EPC ratings of buildings across Hillfields

Approach

As mentioned in 3Ci's Net Zero Taskforce Findings, it is recommended to build retrofit demonstrators to help boost investor confidence and secure funding in future. This can be done by running a demonstrator programme on a small cohort of properties to showcase the projects in practise. The following key elements will need to be considered:

- Learn from lessons on similar projects
- Data, monitoring and verification
- Community engagement
- Impact of different tenures
- Risks
- Scalability
- Investment structures

Capital Investment Approach

Built environment costs and carbon savings

Light retrofit

The indicative cost for carrying out full light retrofit per house has been calculated as approximately £5,900 per dwelling. This covers simple upgrades such as cavity wall insulation and roof insulation. It has been assumed that light retrofit will be applied to all houses (flats have been excluded), with an EPC rating of D and below. This covers a total of 3,495 properties.

Deep retrofit

The indicative cost for carrying out deep retrofit per house has been calculated as approximately £60,300 per dwelling. Deep retrofit will include:

- Window replacements
- Solid wall insulation (internal or external)
- LED lighting upgrades
- Additional roof insulation
- Floor insulation

It has been assumed that deep retrofit will be applied to all houses and flats, with an EPC rating of C and below. This covers a total of 6,810 properties.

ASHP

Two rates have been used to calculate the cost of ASHP. The cost allocated to houses is approximately £17,200 per dwelling and the cost for flats is approximately £17,700, assuming a small-scale communal heating system across flats. Please note, the costing for houses has been calculated internally by Mott MacDonald using assumptions and the costing for flats is based on a quote provided by a ASHP provider. Please use this as high-level indicative figures and not as accurate pricing.

Domestic solar PV

The indicative cost used for domestic solar PV installation is approximately £8,340 per dwelling. This calculation only takes into consideration houses, not flats. This cost does not cover battery storage.

Community scale infrastructure

Costs and savings associated with solar for community infrastructure have not been calculated. Priority should be given to domestic properties where possible as this will present a better opportunity to reduce emissions and generate more energy collectively. However, community infrastructure should be considered in the future. This can include PV installation on community buildings and installation of solar canopies in car park areas.

The potential to develop heat networks is also a possibility, but this will have to be funded using alternative finance options e.g. HNDU funding. This is currently being considered by the Council.

Costs and carbon savings

Carbon savings in the table above are based on carbon emission factors in The Green Book, for gas and electricity.

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Table 3: Summary of indicative costs and carbon savings for building interventions

Intervention	Total cost (£ m)	Carbon savings per year - 2025 (tCO2e)	Carbon savings per year - 2030 (tCO2e)	Carbon savings per year - 2041 (tCO2e)	Single year abatement cost: Cost (£)/2025 carbon savings
Light retrofit (houses only)	20.8	1,020	1,020	1,020	20,300
Deep retrofit (houses and flats)	410.4	4,760	4,450	4,210	86,200
ASHP Houses	98.4	12,130	16,060	18,970	8,100
ASHP Flats	30.5	2,170	2,720	3,120	14,000
Domestic solar PV (houses only)	47.8	2,210	830	250	21,600
Total cost	607.8	22,290	25,080	27,570	

All interventions listed have both gas and electricity savings calculated except for light retrofit and PV. Light retrofit has only considered gas savings, and PV has only considered electricity.

Abatement cost rates and carbon reductions over time

Carbon savings are generated by all measures, however, the single year abatement cost indicates which measures reduce carbon at the lowest costs. This is an indicative value for one year of savings, rather than the full carbon savings over each measure's lifespan, however it is a useful initial measure for prioritisation.

ASHPs in houses offer the lowest abatement cost, followed by ASHPs in flats. Deep retrofit is very expensive, with disproportionately low carbon reductions, therefore the installation of heat pumps should be considered ahead of deep retrofit, if possible.

The carbon impacts of Solar PV installation decrease rapidly over time, as the grid is expected to decarbonise. However, these have benefit to reduce energy bills and provide residents with energy independence as they will be less reliant on energy from the grid. These projections will vary based on how efficiently the grid decarbonises.

By contrast, the impact of ASHPs increases over time, as carbon impact from the increased use of electricity diminishes as the grid decarbonises.

Capital Investment Approach

Potential funding routes

There are potential funding routes that can be explored to help with the implementation of the different interventions. Below is a brief overview of some of the grants available and the eligibility requirements. Please note, this is not an extensive list.

Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2)

The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD) are government schemes supporting energy efficiency upgrades of low-energy efficiency (EPC of D or lower) low-income (household income below £30k) households across England.

Coventry City Council have successfully applied for £2.8 million from the Midlands Net Zero hub to support approximately 150 homes across Coventry.

The eligibility criteria for this grant is as follow:

- Have a combined annual income below £36,000. If it is a private rented property, the tenant needs to fulfil this criteria.
- Or be living in an area automatically eligible for the scheme – this will be checked upon applying.
- Your property must have an EPC of D or lower
- Your property must be off the mains gas grid
- You must own or privately rent your property

If you privately rent your property, your landlord will need to consent to any works taking place and will need to provide a contribution to the cost of the works (a minimum of 1 third of the total cost) Funding will also be limited to landlords with 4 or fewer properties and funding can only be used to support rented properties with an energy performance certificate of D or E. If the property is rated F or G the landlord must have a registered exemption under the Energy Efficiency Regulations 2015.

Applications are currently closed for this.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Disabled Facilities Grant for energy efficiency measures is available to provide a range of insulation and heating measures to vulnerable and low-income households in Coventry. The funding can cover the following measures:

- External wall insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- Loft Insulation
- Gas boiler and electric storage heater provision or replacement
- First time gas central heating

The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Household must include a disabled person OR
- Person who is in hospital and is due to be discharged home, or who faces possible admission/re-admission to hospital in the future.
- Must have received a Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant from Coventry City Council OR
- Must be in receipt of a disability-related benefit because of their condition
- Meet the gross annual income thresholds
- Meet the age requirement OR
- Be diagnosed with one of the long-term health conditions mentioned on the Council website
- No EPC requirement has been stated

ECO4 Scheme

The ECO4 Scheme is a government initiative aimed at improving the energy efficiency of homes. ECO4 scheme provides grants for energy-saving measures, such as insulation and heating system upgrades, to help reduce carbon emissions, lower energy bills, and tackle fuel poverty.

A whole house retrofit approach is adopted where multiple interventions can be installed within a single property. Some of the measures that the funding covers include:

- Improvements to heating
- Loft and cavity wall insulation
- Smart heating controls
- Solar panels
- Heat pumps

The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- Homeowners and private tenants
- EPC ratings D and below
- Household must claim income related benefits (list of eligible benefits are listed on the UK Energy Support website)
- Properties with inefficient heating systems

Capital Investment Approach

Potential funding routes (continued)

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund- Wave 3

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) will upgrade a large number of the social housing properties. Approximately, £1.2bn of funding is available. The following groups can apply for Wave 3:

- Local authorities
- Combined authorities
- Registered providers of social housing
- Registered charities that own social housing

Other requirements include:

- All existing social housing as defined by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (sections 68-70), below EPC band C, regardless of archetype, are eligible.
- Application size requirements vary based on applicant e.g. small social housing landlord, strategic partnership, etc..

Applications are due to close in November 2024.

Great British Insulation Scheme

Under this scheme administered by Ofgem, homeowners, landlords or tenants are able to get free or cheaper insulation to support with reducing energy bills.

A range of options are included:

- cavity wall insulation
- solid wall insulation (internal or external)
- loft insulation
- flat or pitched roof insulation
- underfloor insulation
- solid floor insulation
- park home insulation
- room-in-roof insulation

The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- EPC of D and below
- Homes within Council Tax bands A-D

Warm Homes: Local Grant

The Warm Homes: Local Grant is a government-funded scheme delivered by Local Authorities that will take the first steps to delivering on the ambitions of the Warm Homes Plan. The expression of interest window is expected to open October 2024 for Local Authorities. The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- EPC Band D and below
- Fall into the areas of eligible postcodes (based on deprivation indices) OR households which are recipients of specified benefits OR households with an annual gross income below £36,000 or the 'after housing costs' threshold in line with Government published equivalisation tables
- Owner occupier or private rented homes (social housing is ineligible)
- All fuel types
- Private landlords may receive funding for one home but will be required to provide 50% of funding on additional properties.

Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS)

The BUS supports the decarbonisation of heat in buildings. It allows for successful applicants to receive upfront capital to support with the installation of heat pumps and biomass boilers in homes and non-domestic buildings.

The scheme has been extended until April 2028 and additional funding has been invested into the scheme.

Applicants can apply for a grant upto £7,500, but grants vary based on which technology is pursued.

The eligibility criteria is as follows:

- The applicant must own the property they are applying for
- The property must have a valid EPC

Smart Export Guarantee (SEG)

The SEG is a Government backed scheme, which allows for energy to be generated (e.g., wind, solar, hydro) and then transported back to the grid if the criteria specified is met. The generators will be given a payment for the energy they export based on their selected tariff.

These installations must be located in Great Britain and have a total installed capacity (TIC) of no more than 5MW, or no more than 50kW for micro-CHP.

West Midlands Net Zero Grants

£15.5m of grant funding has been made available to businesses located in the West Midlands area, to support with improving energy efficiency of business buildings.

Businesses can be awarded a grant of up to £100,000 in funding and up to 50% aid intensity. However, applicants must have an energy efficiency assessment carried out by a competent individual in the last two years prior to applying.

Eligibility of businesses will be assessed to allow for certain companies to receive support, these include:

- SMEs from all sectors (excluding agriculture, forestry and fisheries) are eligible.
- Businesses must have had an energy efficiency assessment delivered by a qualified assessment or (with appropriate knowledge (which may differ between commercial and industry) and qualifications (e.g. ISO/ ESOS accreditation) for the complexity of the assessment.
- The Energy Efficiency Assessment has been undertaken in the last two years.
- Grants may be sought for solutions to one, some, or all of the recommendations for energy reduction measures provided within the assessment.
- Businesses need to have been running for at least 12 months (established company).
- Businesses must agree to take part in follow-up monitoring of the impact of the intervention (proportionate to the grant amount) and surveys/ evaluation.

Capital Investment Approach

Potential funding routes (continued)

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is an innovative method of raising funds and can be utilised for community energy projects and other community development projects. This is a useful way in which the community can truly take ownership and feel involved in the transition to a sustainable future.

Various platforms are available online, including Triodos Bank crowdfunding platform. The Triodos Bank platform allows for capital up to £10 million to be raised and attracts attention from both individual investors and institutions.

In some instances, this can be supported by match funding from government groups, increasing the capital available for projects.

Collaborative opportunities

Several financial institutions, such as Coventry Building Society and Lloyds Bank, are already working with private sector landlords and providing loans with carbon reduction objectives. It would be useful for the Council to consider partnerships with such organisations to support with the development of the NZNP and carbon reduction activities and programmes such as green mortgages.

Capital Investment Approach

Potential additional financing options that could be developed with E.ON (Strategic Energy Partner)

Strategic Energy Partner projects

E.ON, Coventry City Council's strategic energy partner, are seeking to develop programmes for installation of domestic retrofit, solar and heat pump measures. E.ON recognise the cost challenges associated with these measures, as they are either reliant on Government grants which might not fully cover up-front capital cost or rely on the ability and appetite of residents to pay for measures. To address these challenges, the partnership is exploring the following projects that reduce the need for up-front capital from consumers.

Energy as a service

Heat as a Service is a model for consumers to choose and pay for the experience of warmth and comfort level provided, instead of the traditional payment per energy unit used..

This model is being tested by E.ON to cover the cost of installation of air source heat pumps for domestic customers, as part of the Energy Systems Catapult trial : **Innovative Green Finance Pilot Launch (eonenergy.com)**.

This could be used in conjunction with house air source heat pump installation, or tower block and small residential street communal heating systems.

Benefits:

- Reduce consumer exposure to energy prices – heat as a service removes the direct connection of heating to energy unit prices. This transfers risk in price fluctuations to E.ON, which potentially makes electric heating methods more attractive to consumers.
- Cover capital costs of electric heating – E.ON's trials have covered the purchase costs of air source heat pumps. These are a significant cost, and by removing the up-front capital requirement residents might be willing to install air source heat pumps.

Finance schemes

Schemes that spread the cost of retrofit measures can be explored so that individuals do not need to have up front capital. These could take the following forms:

0% finance packages offered by the SEP: E.ON currently have 0% finance packages on solar and heat pump installations, but these could be reviewed to see if they could be extended to building fabric measures and EV chargers.

Distressed purchase offering: Bridging loans could be explored with a partner to fund air source heat pumps and building fabric improvements in the instance where fossil fuel boilers unexpectedly need replacement.

Mortgage products: Green mortgage products, that offer homeowners the opportunity to extend their mortgage at preferential rates, should be explored with partnership organisations. The Coventry Building Society currently have an offering for green mortgages and could provide a local partnership.

Benefits:

- Reduce requirement for up front capital – finance schemes reduce the need for upfront capital from homeowners, which potentially extends the size of the able to pay market.

Virtual renewable energy supply

Virtual renewable energy supply, such as the Ripple Energy Model, is an opportunity for energy consumers to invest in renewable energy projects and get an associated financial benefit in a form of savings on their electricity bill. This allows consumers to invest in renewable energy projects for values far less than the cost of solar panels and receive a proportionate benefit to their investment on their energy bills.

Benefits:

- Low entry costs – minimum investment with Ripple Energy is from as low as £25, allowing consumers to invest proportionate to their available capital.
- Benefits follow consumers – benefits to energy bills stay with consumers rather than their properties, therefore they can move house and still retain the benefit of their investment.
- Capital for local projects – the model could provide a source of capital for local renewable energy projects, funded by the community.

Group purchase schemes

Group purchase schemes are schemes where multiple residents indicate interest in a low carbon technology. A supplier then assesses the volume of interest and quotes prices, which should be lower than the market price if residents were to approach suppliers individually.

Group purchase schemes are typically considered for solar PV but could also be considered for other technologies such as EV chargers, heat pumps and light or deep retrofit building fabric improvements.

Benefits:

- Reduce cost for residents – group purchase schemes should reduce cost for residents, which would stimulate uptake of measures. This reduced cost can either be achieved by economies of scale by the partnership, or through accepting a lower margin for a higher volume of installations.
- Ease and acceptance of purchase – group purchase schemes provide an easy method for residents to purchase technologies, with the assumption that they are achieving a better than open market price. The knowledge that others are also participating also builds consumer confidence in the decision to invest. This should stimulate market uptake.



Capital Investment Plan: Priority 2

Capital Investment Approach

Transport and other infrastructure

Transport

To support with decarbonisation of transport, electrification will need to be considered. EV infrastructure is an intervention that has been suggested as part of this NZNP. To determine the cost associated with this, preliminary works will be required. This could include surveys and identification of suitable areas.

Benchmark spend for liveable neighbourhood programmes

Additional interventions under transport are focused on promotion of active travel and improving road safety to support this. Coventry City Council have already launched a Liveable Neighbourhood in Earlsdon. Forecasted costs for this initiative are approximately £1million which covers a wide range of activities, including (but not limited to):

- Construction
- Traffic signals
- Signs and lighting
- Traffic management
- Design work
- Surveys
- Communications

This initial forecast can be used as an indication for what to expect when launching a Liveable Neighbourhood programme in Hillfields.

EV charger unit rates

EV chargers can be considered if demand is identified in the area. Indicative unit rates for EV chargers based upon supplier benchmarks areas can be found in Table 4.

Table 4: Indicative unit rates for EV chargers

Charger type	Indicative unit cost (£)
7kw (slow, residential charging)	3,500
22 kw (medium, destination charging)	5,000
50kw (fast, destination charging)	23,000

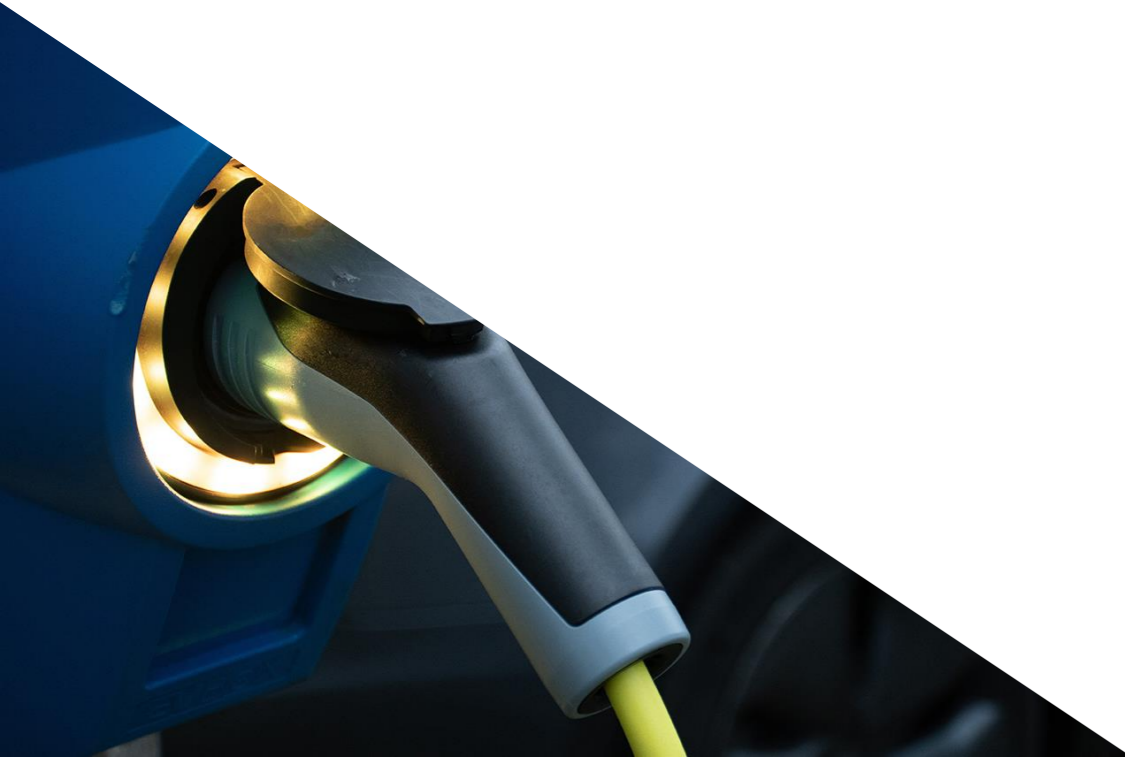
Solar canopies

Solar canopies for installation of solar generation over car parking spaces can vary in cost depending on the materials used and site works required.

Excluding site works, solar canopy costs per KW are likely to be £2,500 per KW installed capacity. However, fully loaded costs will be higher after considering site works and connections.

Other infrastructure

Projects to support enhancement of the natural environment and community growth will require further work to better understand the associated costs. These interventions will have varying prices that will be difficult to price until a clear scope and approach has been defined.



Capital Investment Approach

Potential funding routes

There are additional potential funding routes that can be explored to help with the implementation of the different interventions. Below is a brief overview of some of the grants available and the eligibility requirements. Please note, this is not an extensive list.

Free Trees for Schools & Community Groups

To help the UK reach its 2050 net zero carbon target, Woodland Trust are giving away thousands of trees to schools, nurseries, colleges, universities, outdoor learning centres, and additional groups (councils, resident associations, scouts, etc...).

Tree packs include a range including, hedges, urban trees and much more.

Applications are currently open and are expected to close in January 2025 (could be soon depending on stock availability). Deliveries will be scheduled for March 2025.

Workplace Charging Scheme

This grant provides support towards the costs of the purchase, installation and infrastructure of electric vehicle charge points at eligible places of work.

The scheme covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of EV charge points (including VAT), capped at a maximum of:

- £350 per socket
- 40 sockets across all sites per applicant – for instance, if you want to install them at 40 sites, you will have 1 socket available per site

It is open to eligible:

- Businesses
- charities
- public sector organisations
- small accommodation businesses

IM Properties Community Fund

IM Properties have partnered with Heart of England Community Foundation to deliver this fund which aims to support projects with the following priorities:

People- promoting positive change projects that:

- Support health and wellbeing
- Promote inclusion and diversity within the community

Place- strengthening communities through projects that:

- Promote and encourage community cohesion
- Tackle social isolation and/or help to build social networks
- Help to raise aspirations and provide learning opportunities for children, young people, adults and families

Planet- enhancing the natural environment

- Promote education and awareness of sustainability
- Encourage resource efficiency by reduction, recycling and reusing of waste materials
- Support environmental initiatives including wildlife and habitat creation

Full eligibility requirements can be found on the Heart of England Community Foundation website.

Grants of up to £3000 can be awarded.

Electric vehicle charge point and infrastructure grants for landlords

There are 2 grants you can get for installing charge points for electric vehicles at a property you own:

- an electric vehicle charge point grant (EV charge point grant)
- an electric vehicle infrastructure grant (EV infrastructure grant)

You can use an infrastructure grant and a charge point grant on the same property.

Only landlords located in the UK who own or managed flats, houses, apartment blocks or business premises should apply for these grants.

EV charge point grant

An EV chargepoint grant gives you money off the cost of installing an electric vehicle chargepoint socket. You can get either £350 or 75% off the cost to buy and install a socket, whichever amount is lower.

Each financial year, you can get up to:

- 200 grants for residential properties
- 100 grants for commercial properties

These can be across several properties and installations or for one property.

EV infrastructure grant

This grant will give you support with the cost of wider building works required to facilitate the installation of charge points e.g., wiring and posts.

Up to £30,00 can be awarded or 75% off the cost of work. Up to 30 infrastructure grants can be provided per financial year and each grant used for a different property.

Project Delivery Approach



Project Delivery Approach

Overall approach

The purpose of the plan

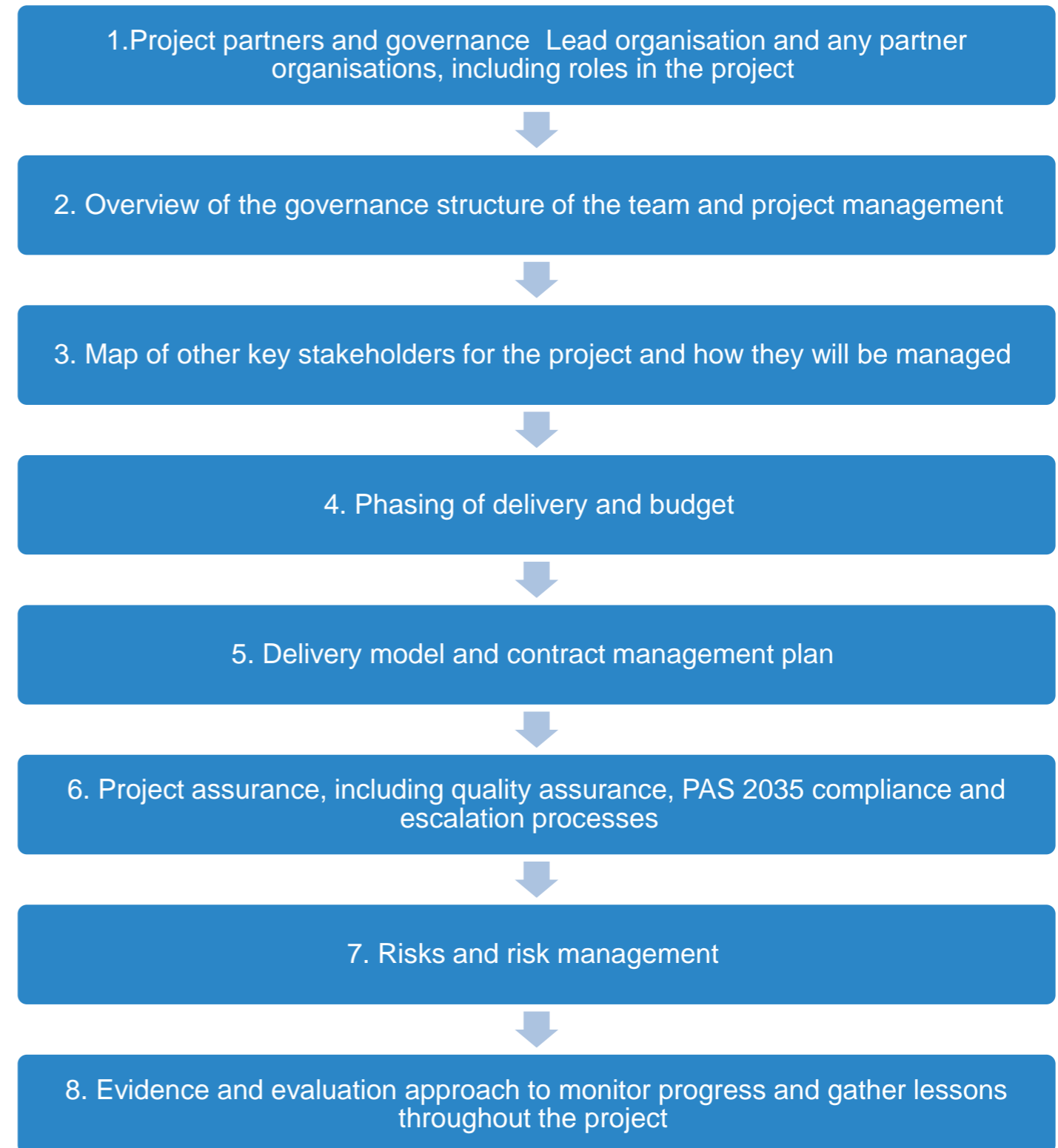
A Project Delivery Plan has been delivered with the purpose of identifying the enabling engagement, surveys and interventions to support the Capital Investment Plan, utilising the funding available from WMCA over the next 2 years. The activities in the delivery plan support the identification of the scale and scope of the next phase of design which includes interventions from the Capital Investment Plan.

The delivery plan will focus on enabling activities to reduce energy demands and domestic emissions, specifically retrofit and low carbon energy systems, with some funding remaining for other elements of the NZNP. The justification for this is that there are other funding routes for transport and natural environment interventions, through the VLR and LEVI schemes, whereas there are fewer funding routes for large scale investment into the built environment of an area to focus on decarbonisation.

The structure of the plan

The Delivery Plan is structured in the following way, utilising the methodology identified in the flowchart on the right and is structured in the following way:

- Outlines the project partners and governance
- Identifies project delivery options and details the activities covered by these options.
- Identifies potential initial project phases based on likely funding, design and installation timescales.
- Mapping of initial necessary community engagement timescales, informed by the Community Engagement Plan prior to funding applications, design and construction.
- Future opportunities following the first 2 year phase
- Other considerations
- Risks and opportunities to the project
- Delivery team and NZN Officer requirements
- Potential contract considerations, quality assurance and governance, PAS 2035 compliance elements for the retrofit options



Project Delivery Approach

Project partners and governance

Project governance

Coventry City Council will be the leading organisation in the implementation of the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan, should funding be awarded. Organisational capacity will take the form of the appointment of an internal Project Lead (the NZN Officer) to drive the project forward, supported by further procurement of consultancy support where needed. A budget of £159k has been allocated from the £0.5M Phase 1 funding to cover the project implementation and coordination, anticipated to be over a two-year period. This will cover the costs of the project lead appointment and would be further supplemented through internal resources as has been the case during the preparation of this plan.

Project sponsor and supporting groups

The project sponsor will be Rhian Palmer who's the Strategic Lead for Green Futures as part of the Regeneration & Economy Directorate at Coventry City Council. The plan will initially focus on addressing the fabric of buildings and the infrastructure supporting energy supplies into peoples' homes. However, it is acknowledged that this will require input from other partners across the Council and a wider multi-agency Board or Steering Group will need to be established to ensure cross-cutting opportunities aren't missed. There will need to be a strong community voice within the governance structures for the project, ideally with representation on the Board / Steering Group.

Should funding be awarded, there may be advantages in setting up a local project board to support or for the NZNP to report into. This however should be reviewed at the next stage.

Coventry City Council's process and experience

From an overall governance perspective, upon award of funding, the plan would be taken to Cabinet for ratification and to trigger Coventry's formal governance, reporting and oversight procedures upon Cabinet approval.

Coventry City Council have worked with their Economic Development Service to develop processes for administering grant funding for over 10 years. They have successfully developed across a range of funding programmes including ERDF. More recently they have been successful in delivery of several retrofit schemes including the current delivery of a £23.8 million grant funded programme with Citizen

Housing to deliver retrofit to over 2,000 properties across the city.

Upon the potential award of funding, a more detailed delivery plan aligning with Council processes will be developed. This will also cover future elements to be included such as climate change, transport, planning, heritage, ecology and urban design. Development of a plan to ensure there are lasting benefits, additional opportunities and lessons learned from this demonstrator neighbourhood will enforce the longevity of the plan.

A key element of this will be capturing the solutions implemented by this plan in Coventry's design codes. The interventions can then be applied across Coventry using lessons learned in Hillfields and enable long term impact of the NZNP.

Key organisations

The key organisations involved in the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan have been mentioned throughout this report and are detailed in the Community Engagement Plan, alongside with how they will be managed.

Community engagement

The council has a strong record of co-production and community involvement. Across a number of different teams, the Council has resources that can be deployed to engage with local residents. We also benefit from a very strong voluntary sector who we can harness to work with us on the delivery of behaviour change within our communities. We understand our communities often respond more positively when they feel in control of the change and our strong track record of co-production of service improvements gives assurances that we will be able to deliver

Technical expertise

Whilst the Council has a number of subject matter experts on matters that will support the delivery of Net Zero neighbourhood, we are mindful that this is a fast-paced environment with many opportunities to be innovative and test new concepts. It will be critical to delivery that the council can pull on external expert advice, support and intervention throughout the duration of the delivery phase of the project. Further expertise should be sought through partners aligned with specific projects and funding bids, or through existing Council supply chains (for example for installation of insulation).

Project Delivery Approach

The role of the SEP

Coventry City Council and E.ON have formed a Strategic Energy Partnership. E.ON is therefore a key organisation in the development and implementation of the NZNP. This pages provides further information on what the SEP is, what its aims are and it could be used to benefit the NZNP.

What is the SEP?

As of September 2023, Coventry City Council entered into a 15-year Strategic Energy Partnership with E.ON. This partnership aims to collaboratively work towards the Council's long-term energy goals through a joint venture. The SEP will focus on delivering various energy projects for the Council. Mot MacDonald will collaborate to revolutionise energy usage in Coventry for the benefit of our local communities and the wider economy. The strategic partnership is defined by the following four goals:

- Clean local energy
- Jobs and skills
- Innovation and scale
- Community benefit

Key actions of the SEP

The SEP aims to look at:

- Energy system analysis
- Socio-economic analysis
- Programme identification

The programmes proposed in the energy masterplan will evolve over the course of the partnership to align to future needs and opportunities

Activity across the programmes will be joined up to maximise the value of this delivery approach and meet the objectives of the partnership.

Areas of focus within the study

- Renewable generation
- Streetlighting
- Heating and Cooling
- Electric Vehicles
- Domestic Decarbonisation
- Commercial and public sector estates decarbonisation
- Supply
- Grid Decarbonisation

All of the focus areas of the SEP align with the principles of a NZN. It would be advantageous for the development of Hillfields' NZNP to benefit from the learnings and findings of the studies as part of the SEP.

Involvement on the NZNP

The SEP plans to investigate new areas of sustainable technology, such as developing decarbonised heating systems for tower blocks. Pilot schemes are being planned across Coventry with discussions around the benefits of group purchasing and wider scale investment into energy systems. It would be advantageous for the NZN Officer to engage with E.ON to discuss the possibility of including Hillfields as part of their pilot schemes.

Aims of the SEP

- Enable low carbon, **sustainable** and equitable **transport** across the city including **electrification** and Active Travel
- e the move toward a zero-carbon **circular economy** approach throughout the city. Deliver Coventry's **Digital ambitions**



- Enable the creation of sustainable and resilient **energy infrastructure** for the long-term development needs of the city.
- Enable **zero carbon**, energy efficient, resilient and **adaptable buildings** across the city.



- Deliver meaningful and significant **social value** for the long-term benefit of the city's residents. Promote **public awareness** and enable **behavioural change** across energy use and transport throughout the city's residents, public and voluntary organisations and private businesses.



Project Delivery Approach

Budget spend proposals

Approach

There are two versions of the Project Delivery Plan.

Option 1 assumes all the suggested activities are funded by the net zero neighbourhood accelerator funding, prioritising domestic retrofit and running heat innovation pilots with the purpose of reducing domestic emissions. Some funding will be allocated to additional surveys to support the liveable communities work, and the landscape improvement as discussed with Citizen.

Option 2 incorporates all the activities from the first, however allocates the funding from these to other sources, such as E.ON programmes and Citizen funding. If the priority activities can be funded outside of the net zero neighbourhood plan funding, the grant can be allocated more widely through the other aspects of the plan.

Capital Budget

This budget is for enabling activities for the interventions in the Capital Investment Plan. These are detailed further on the next slide and typically involve surveys, designs and light touch installations.

Revenue Budget

This budget is for the employment of the Net Zero Neighbourhood Officer as well as other back-office functions to support the role. This cost is the same across both capital options.

Basis of costs

Values for the capital budget are high level estimates for potential allocation for studies, suggesting potential proportions for budget allocation. Studies can be scoped to suit Coventry City Council's priorities and the coverage proposed by third parties at different levels of cost.

Table 5: Capital budget proposal

Cost description	Option 1) Costs if no additional funding partnerships is available (£)	Option 2) Costs if additional funding is available (£)
Retrofit PAS2035 surveys	125,000	165,000
Towerblock development feasibility studies	100,000	Funded by partners
Heat as a service model feasibility studies	50,000	Funded by partners
Residential street development/ Hillfields improvement	65,000	50,000
Liveable neighbourhood	26,250	50,000
Park feasibility study and playzone application		50,000
Access study implementation		31,250
Indoor air quality monitoring equipment	10,000	10,000
Tree planting scheme		10,000
Cycle hire		10,000
Additional community identified projects		
Total capital budget	386,250	386,250

Table 6: Revenue budget proposal

Cost description	Cost, all options (£)
Net Zero Neighbourhoods Officer, to co-ordinate other programmes	100,000
LA Back Office Functions	59,352
Total revenue budget	159,352

Project Delivery Approach

Description of funded project delivery actions

Retrofit PAS2035 surveys

Purpose: to facilitate identification, design and installation of subsequent retrofit measures

Funding proposed for official PAS 2035 Retrofit Assessments of homes in target areas. Surveys must be undertaken to assess the type and scope of upgrades required for energy efficiency improvements. The outcome of the assessment would be:

- An energy report on the performance of the home (not the same as an energy performance certificate)
- A condition survey that looks at issues that could affect the energy efficient improvements.
- An occupancy assessment to identify patterns of use for utilities such as hot water, heating etc.

The surveys will enable subsequent light and deep retrofit designs and installation to be undertaken.

It is estimated this funding would enable surveys for approximately 500 homes for Option 1 and 660 for Option 2. This is based on an estimate of £250 per survey based on market research, however the NZN Officer should explore a variety of options to procure a surveyor or could be a PAS2035 surveyor themselves.

Indoor air quality (IAQ) monitoring equipment

Purpose: to identify air quality hazards in target homes, for immediate behaviour change and to inform whether subsequent retrofit measures are required

Funding proposed for installation of monitoring equipment in homes in target areas. IAQ can impact the health and wellbeing of occupants of a home. There are several pollutants or conditions that are particularly hazardous to residents and to homes including:

- Carbon monoxide, tobacco smoke, incense particulate, and other combustion byproducts
- Lead or asbestos, which are more common in older homes
- Mold and mildew
- Ozone and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Pet dander

Installing monitors for these issues can identify existing issues with the home and enable more specific interventions to be installed to improve the quality of the home.

Tower block development feasibility studies

Purpose: initial studies to identify suitable towerblocks and perform early stage system design

To run pilots on the installation of communal heat pump heating systems on tower blocks, surveys must be undertaken. This funding will allow for:

- Identification of a potential pilot block

- Procurement of structural and mechanical surveys of the systems at the tower block
- Early stage design of the system

Heat as a service mode feasibility studies

Purpose: initial studies to identify suitable areas for heat as a service trial, and early stage business case development

The funding for this line item would cover:

- Engagement with E.ON to discuss possibilities of utilising Hillfields as a pilot scheme
- Community engagement to identify appetite for this scheme
- Business case development for potential heat as service trial, including identification of investment requirements and operating model

Liveable neighbourhoods

Purpose: to design and, if possible, install low-cost public realm improvements

The funding is to cover design and installations designed by the liveable neighbourhoods programme. This may include:

- Any necessary community engagement to inform design
- Crossings, streetlighting and benches

Residential streets development/ Hillfields improvement

Purpose: support Citizen developments through capital contributions

This funding is to support initiatives and projects in development by Citizen in the area. These could entail:

- implementation of the designs for Primrose hill, the greenspace development, community gardens and park/ forest installation.
- Community engagement to support these projects

Park feasibility study

Purpose: to develop proposals for green space developments within the Hillfields.

Applications for park improvements have been proposed by Coventry City Council and could potentially be developed with Citizen. This funding would progress these feasibility studies.

Coventry Consortium have identified potential areas for play zones, one of which is on Virginia road (aligned with Citizen project 3). Funding could be used to support the application and installation of the play zone.

Project Delivery Approach

Description of funded project delivery actions

Tree planting scheme

Purpose: programme design, community engagement and materials purchase

A tree planting scheme can be delivered in the short term. Funds can be allocated for:

- Community engagement
- Purchase of materials

Cycle hire and bike maintenance

Purpose: to provide low cost and low carbon transport to Hillfields

Additional cycle hire or cycling facilities could be proposed as part of the NZNP’s low carbon transport focus. Funding for this area would include:

- Engagement with companies
- Design of locations
- Installation of facilities
- Funding for sessions for residents to bring their bike to be fixed/ free bike riding lessons

Access study implementation (Citizen project 2)

Purpose: to provide safer, more neighbourhoods and reduced ASB

Preliminary designs have already been commissioned for this project, however funding could be used to:

- Engage with residents
- Implement the proposed designs

Identifying additional funding

Funding opportunities for the specific workstreams within the NZNP (e.g. built environment, low carbon mobility, natural environment and community growth and engagement) is detailed in the Capital Investment Plan.

Additional community identified projects

Purpose: to set aside funding to develop projects identified through further community engagement

Engagement with key community groups has enabled many of the current interventions to be discussed and championed in this plan. With continued community engagement it is likely that other initiatives will be suggested. This funding can be used to carry out projects that come out of community engagement that the residents feel would be valuable and important. The Council could also utilise the participatory funding approach, where residents vote on how to best utilise this funding.

Breakdown of funding schemes

As discussed in the project delivery options page, the split of the WMCA NZNP funding will depend on the funding availability from organisations such as E.ON and Citizen. The following graphs illustrate how the £386k capital funding can be allocated more holistically if major interventions such as the tower block development can be funded through other mechanisms.

In the first option there appears to be no allocation for the natural environment, however the residential street development / Hillfields improvement activity incorporates actions that include enhancement and development of greenspace as well as improving community areas and has therefore been classed as community growth.

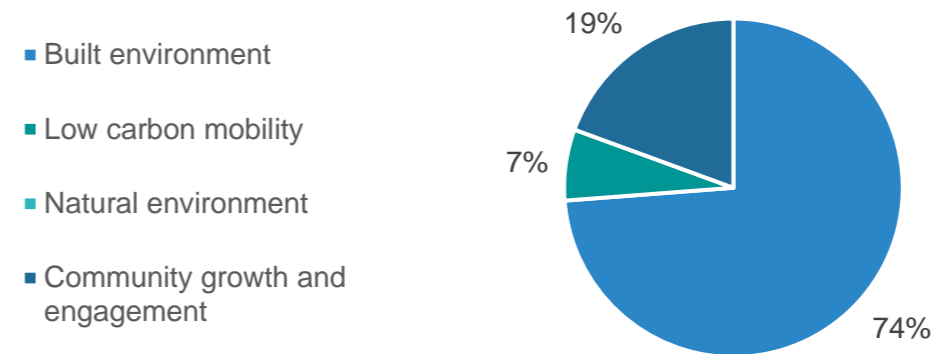


Figure 31: Capital spend (£) with no funding from partner organizations

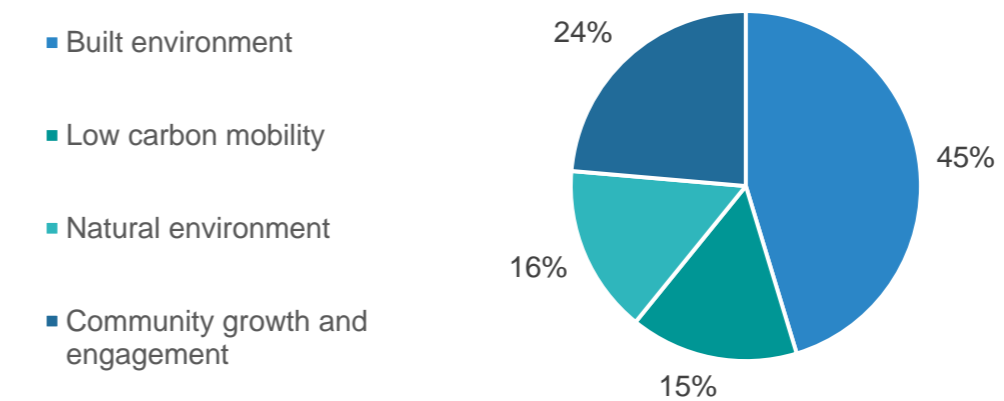
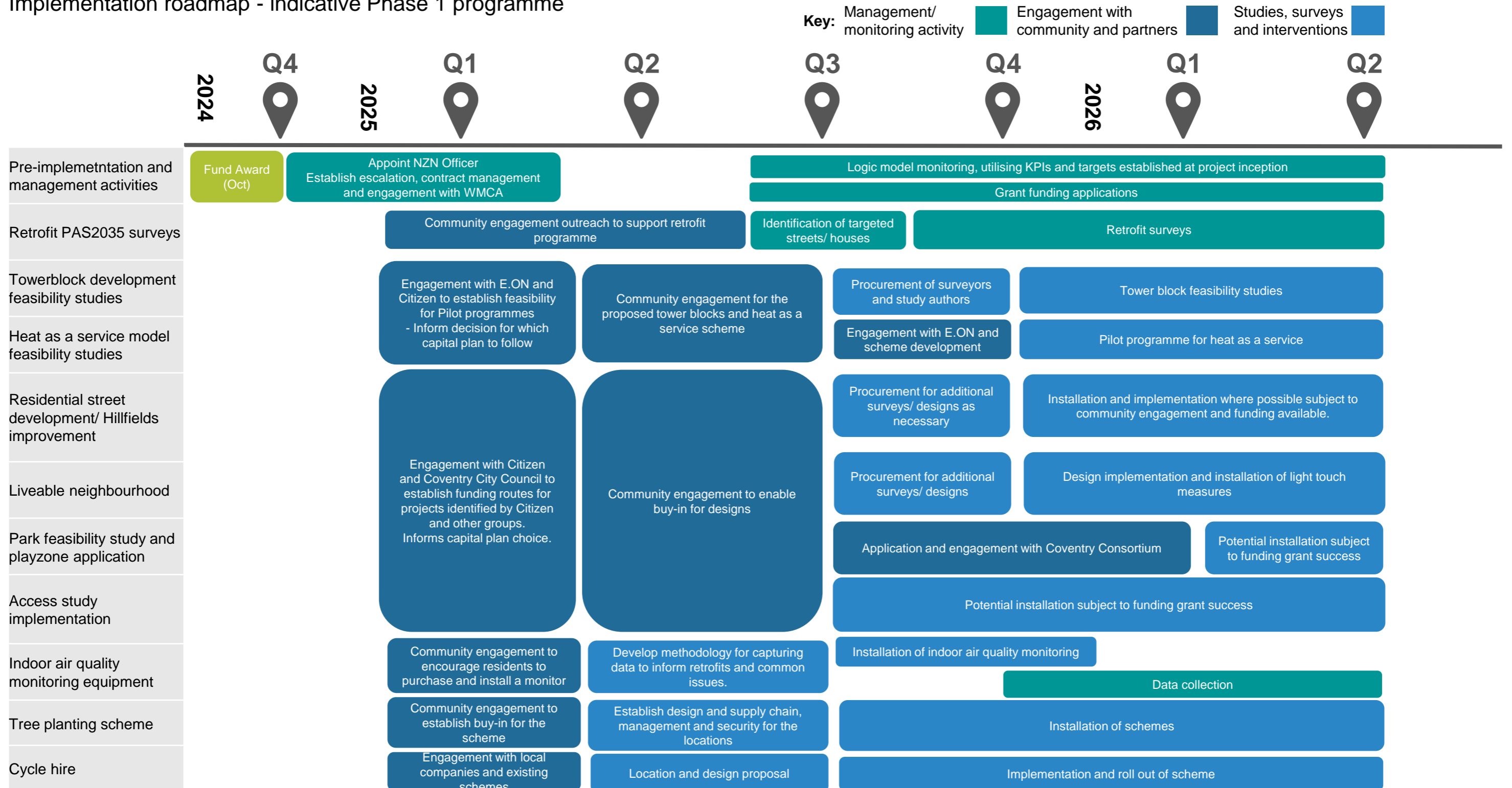


Figure 32: Capital spend (£) with funding from partner organizations

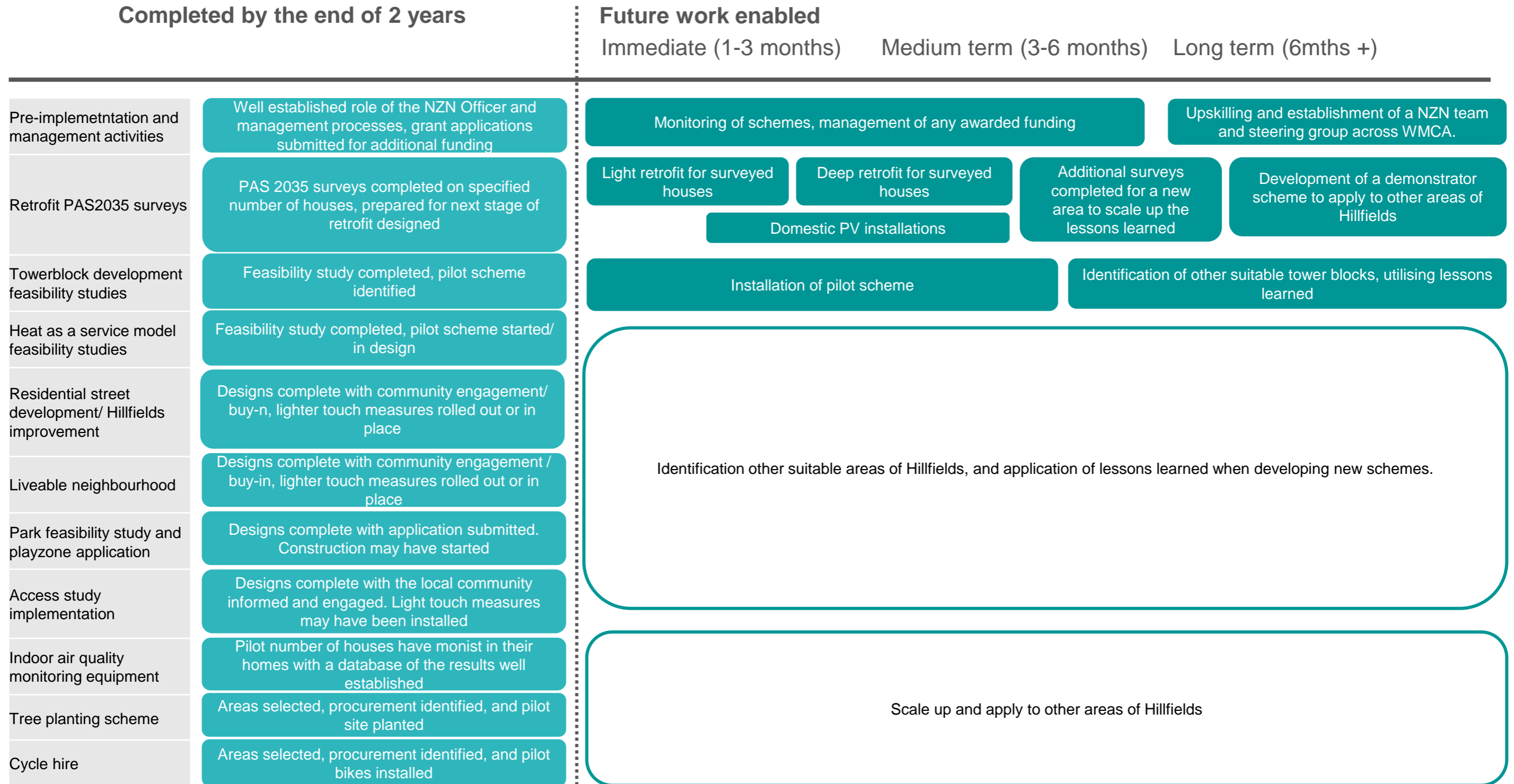
Project Delivery Approach

Implementation roadmap - indicative Phase 1 programme



Project Delivery Approach

Implementation roadmap - potential Phase 2 activities



Project Delivery Approach

High potential streets

Rationale

Potential pilot streets have been assessed for retrofitting, with homes colour coded by mean building efficiency. Further reviews and engagement would need to be carried out to assess their suitability for retrofit. However, this assessment is an indication of locations that may benefit the most from retrofit upgrades.

Methodology

Elements of the EPC ratings have been utilised to create a mean building efficiency score for each street. These elements include hot water, lighting, roof, wall and window conditions. Streets with less than 10 properties were removed from the assessment as retrofit of larger streets would have greater carbon impact and would be more indicative of most streets in Hillfields. The 5 streets with the lowest total mean building efficiencies that would benefit the most from retrofit were then selected.

Results

The 5 streets with the highest retrofit potential are:

- Bath Street
- Wellington Street
- Yardley Street
- Burlington Road
- Grantham Street

It's worth noting that Bath Street, Wellington Street and Yardley Street all contain apartment blocks, for which average scores have been calculated across all apartments.

Additional selection considerations

- Proximity to existing upgrade schemes through Citizen Housing
- Seeking similar tenure types and engagement with homeowners/ landlords
- Appetite from the community for these upgrades

Actions to validate these choices

Following this assessment it is recommended that:

- There is a review of any upgrades carried out since the EPC data (although this was published in April 2024)
- A review of these streets alongside the proposed PAS2035 surveys and the techno-economic feasibility studies proposed of Hillfields.

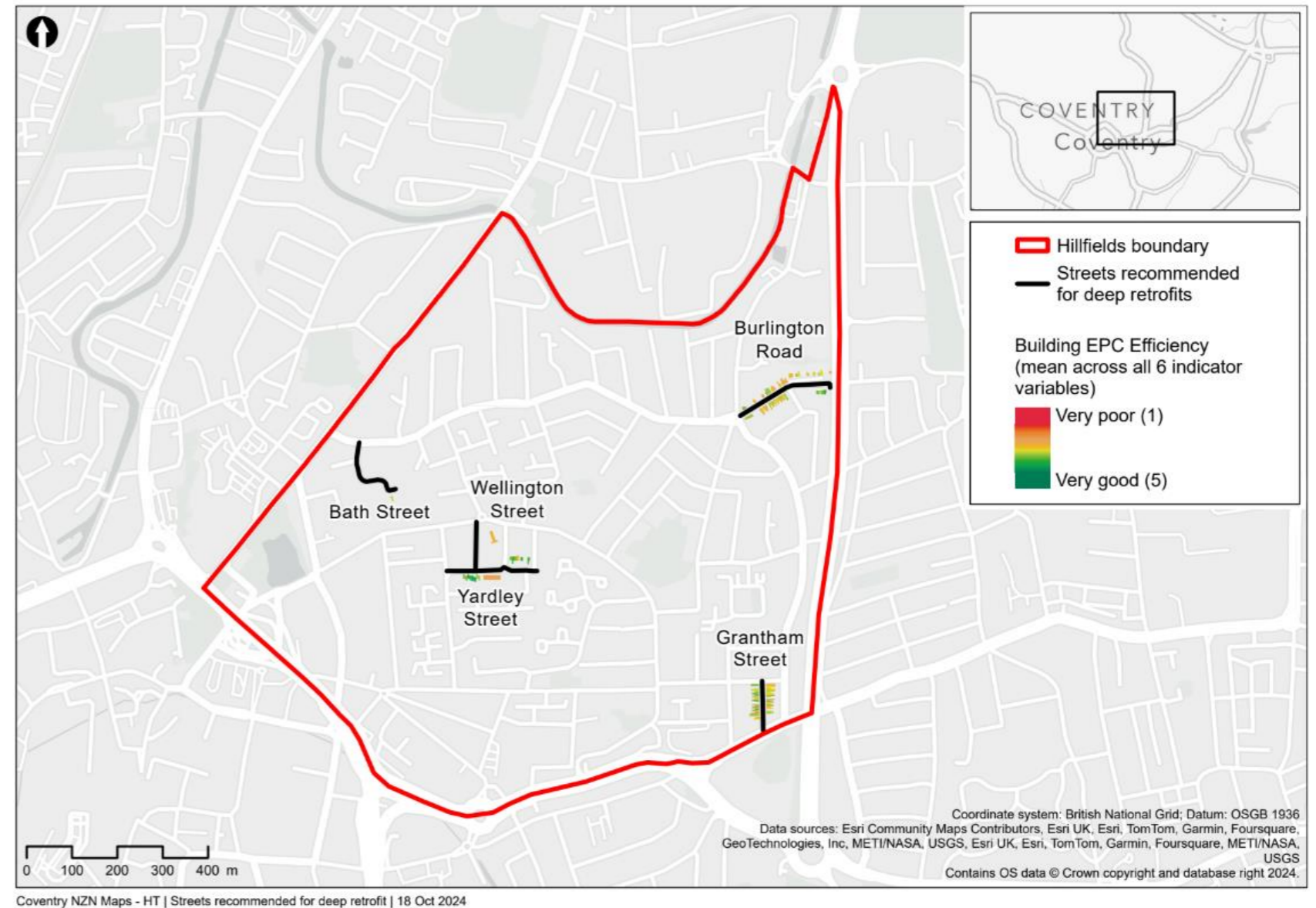


Figure 33: Streets assessed for retrofitting using EPC data

Project Delivery Approach

Other considerations

Methodology for site selection

It is important to provide rationale for the schemes chosen to be a part of the initial phase of funding. The proposed methodology for selecting sites for the first phase of surveys and interventions has been provided below.

Built environment intervention selection

When selecting streets to retrofit there are a number of factors to consider, both spatially and socially. To focus the interventions on the most applicable houses features such as orientation, EPC data and housing type should be utilised. It is recognised that EPC data is limited and in some places incomplete but if it is found that certain areas all exhibit low ratings it would be advantageous to target these properties as a group.

A major contributing factor will be community engagement and buy-in. Most interventions can be applied to all areas in Hillfields, however a differentiating factor will be the interest and engagement of the residents and landlords to implement the proposed measures. This is why the Community Engagement Plan is an essential part of the delivery of the NZNP. As a large proportion of housing is rented in Hillfields, this furthers the priority of community engagement and necessity for buy-in from landlords.

Natural environment interventions

Whilst urban greening, installation of parks and sustainable drainage would ideally be applied across Hillfields, there are some locations where the need is higher than average. This could be for example where surface water flooding is more prominent.

Whilst considering the spatial aspects of decision making with these interventions is important, there is also an advantage in utilising participatory funding, which allows the residents to have their say in how the council spends a particular budget for a programme.

There are also existing projects proposed by community groups from Hillfields such as those by Citizen and St Peter's Church. As initial schemes, it would be advantageous to utilise these proposals as there are already ongoing discussions, designs and engagement around these projects

Creating lasting impact

Scalable impacts

All interventions proposed in the Project Delivery Plan can be applied to a selected area of housing at a small scale to best utilise the funding available. However, the principles of the studies can be scaled up to be applied to other areas in Hillfields. Lessons learned from surveys, building interventions and local environment enhancement can be applied to similar areas or adapted for areas with different characteristics

The scalable approach ensures that the funding has both an immediate impact on a smaller group of people within Hillfields that perhaps require more support, and a longer, sustainable approach with momentum that can continue after the first 2 years.

Phasing development

The Built environment intervention costs and savings section of the Capital Investment Plan discusses the 3Ci's Net Zero Taskforce Findings, that recommends to build retrofit demonstrators to help boost investor confidence and secure funding in future.

The chosen schemes, if delivered successfully can serve as the retrofit demonstrators that will give confidence to future investors to further develop Hillfields.

Incorporation of existing initiatives

Citizen Housing


Citizen Housing are currently retrofitting over 2000 properties, most of which are EWI installation with top up roof insulation, new ventilation and new windows/doors where appropriate. This is being done utilising the SHDF wave 2 funding. However, this scheme does require a certain amount of match funding alongside funding awarded. There would be benefits to the NZNP in liaising with Citizen on the location of these houses and how they managed their engagement with them to apply lessons learned to future upgrade schemes.











Wider studies on retrofit

Damp, condensation and mould in properties is an additional concern as well as energy efficiency. Coventry City Council have a bid with the University of Birmingham (£7.5m UK Research and Innovation with BCC and others) to monitor indoor air quality at scale. This is currently at the final stage in application process and is to be confirmed soon. Citizen Housing are also a partner in this study. This study could also potentially be supported by the housing enforcement team and could be used to educate residents on the effects and management of indoor air quality as well as reviewing the potential negative impacts of retrofit.

Project Delivery Approach

Key risks

Key: High  Medium  Low 

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation strategy
Community engagement- potential lack of engagement/resistance from locals due to a lack of understanding surrounding the NZNP			The community will be engaged early on in order to reduce the risks surrounding this and the Net Zero Officer, along with other Council members supporting on the delivery of the NZNP, will implement the Community Engagement Plan throughout the duration of the programme.
VLR- the VLR programme and Hillfields NZNP may end up operating as siloed programmes with little to no interaction. This could prevent the residents of Hillfields from benefitting from the VLR programme.			The Net Zero Officer and other internal stakeholders supporting with the delivery of the Hillfields NZNP will need to ensure there is an open line of communication between the stakeholders of the VLR programme. As the programme roles out, there could be potential for collaboration opportunities, which can be pursued by the NZN team.
Landlords- retrofit interventions will not be deployed without landlord permission. If landlords are not on board, the potential to reduce carbon emissions through retrofit will be significantly reduced as many homes in the Hillfields area are privately rented.			As part of the built environment interventions, it has been proposed that a Landlord Forum (or something similar) is created that will create an appropriate space for communication between the Council, landlords and other relevant stakeholders. This forum will aim to reduce any potential barriers and provide useful information to landlords about the NZNP and how it impacts them/their properties.
Crime- the high rate of violent crimes and anti-social behaviour could pose a risk when trying to successfully deploy active travel interventions and natural environment interventions. Residents may feel reluctant to change travel modes and use enhanced/newly created greenspaces due to safety concerns.			<p>As the NZNP roles out, additional safety interventions can be implemented (e.g. additional street lighting in areas with higher crime and poor lighting).</p> <p>As green spaces are enhanced, it could potentially have a positive impact on reducing crime if residents are drawn to the areas – helping drive out crime. This will be something worth monitoring in the long run to better understand the impact of community presence on crime.</p> <p>Citizen Housing are planning to reduce permeability in certain areas, as this is known to help reduce crimes in areas. This could be further investigated by the Council to see which other areas within Hillfields could benefit from reduced permeability.</p>
Maintenance- funding opportunities could be limited in the future, posing an issue for maintenance which will predominantly impact environmental interventions.			<p>Engage with community and equip them with the skills and knowledge required to take ownership of certain assets and actively work on maintaining them.</p> <p>Create designated green spaces which will require little to no maintenance, benefitting biodiversity and reducing costs where possible.</p>

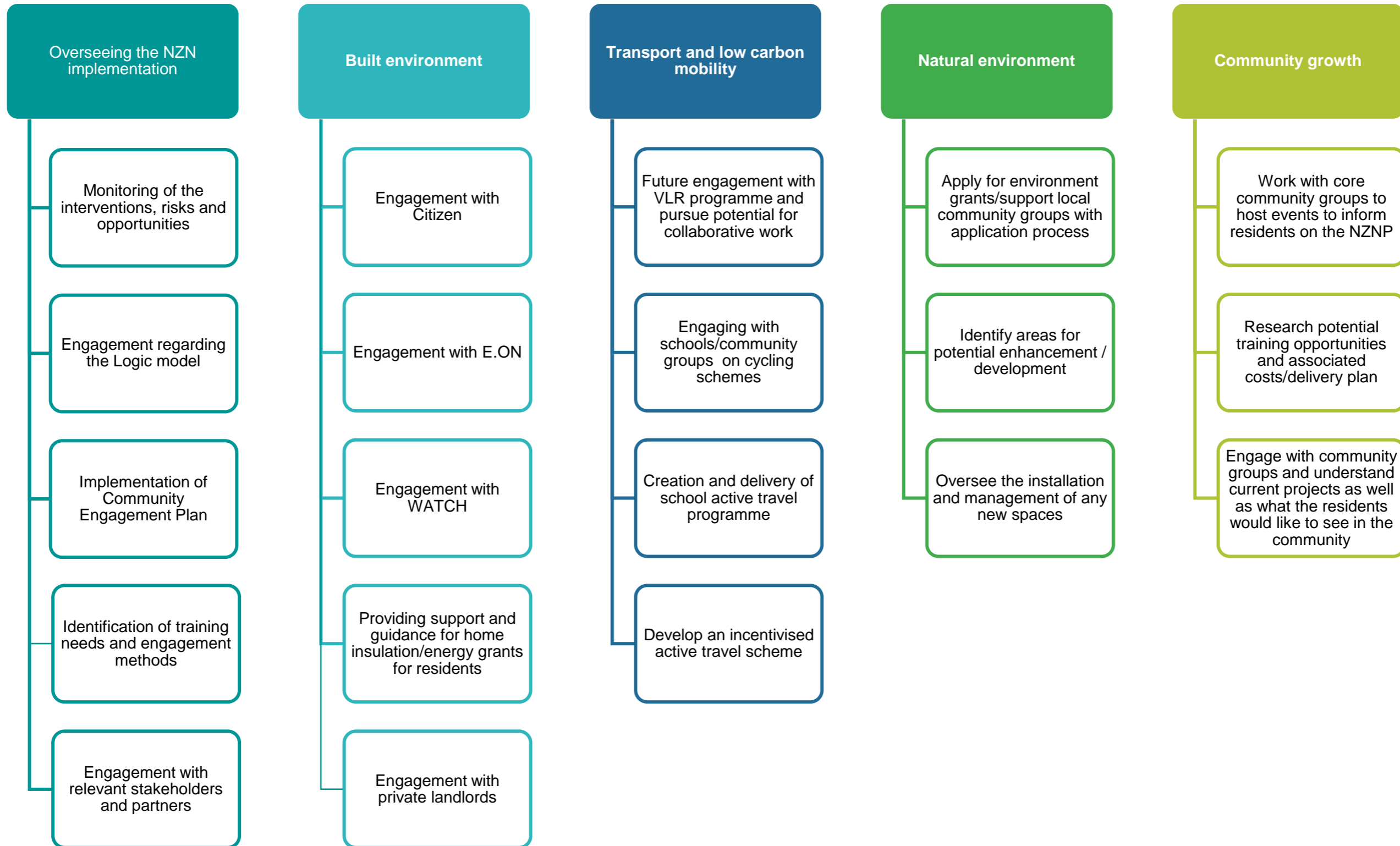
Project Delivery Approach

Key opportunities

Opportunities	How will they assist the net zero neighbourhood plan?
<p>Key stakeholders - there are many key stakeholders who have been identified at this early stage including, WATCH Community Group, Citizen Housing, and the SEP.</p>	<p>The role these different organisations will play in the delivery of the NZNP will defer depending on which category of interventions they can best support and their capabilities. For example, WATCH could support with community engagement across a range of interventions and act as a core means of communication between the community and the NZNP delivery partners, whilst the SEP will primarily support with the actual delivery of the built environment interventions.</p> <p>Other organisations to involve and seek input from are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coventry Independent Climate Change Board who support initiatives in this sector • City Vision 2050 • Hillfields Steering Group
<p>Community outreach - utilising the Community Engagement Plan and identified key community groups to engage residents through mediums already in place.</p>	<p>Ensuring residents feel engaged and consulted is an important part of the implementation of the NZNP. Providing support through the medium of forums for landlords for example, will give a clear space for residents to voice their concerns or seek advice. This can be supported through existing initiatives such as the WATCH energy champions.</p>
<p>Financial incentives – as there are high levels of fuel poverty in the area, financial incentives such as grants are a key enabling factor.</p>	<p>Private organisations are developing the provision of loans for retrofit. These include Lloyds Bank and Coventry Building Society. These loans will also be beneficial to the private rented sector and landlords who are not applicable for the Government loans such as ECO4.</p> <p>The grants can also act as an encouragement to those who are sceptical around investing. Education and support around these</p>
<p>Colleges and university connections – Coventry City Council is already engaged with Warwick University, University of Birmingham and Coventry University on several research projects. They also have contacts with the school and the college.</p>	<p>Education and engagement for youth in college enables buy in and upskilling in the community. There is the ambition to set up training courses at the college where there are already strong connections with the council.</p> <p>In terms of the universities, there are existing research projects that are joint funded by the council and the university.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Birmingham is currently undertaking research on the impact on indoor air quality from retrofit • The university of Warwick is studying the behavioural drivers behind sustainable development <p>Further engagement with these institutions could explore potential studies or projects that may benefit the net zero development of Hillfields.</p>
<p>Energy partnerships The strategic energy partnership with E.ON, as well as relationships with Bring Energy the heat network provider for the networks in Coventry.</p>	<p>Engagement with energy providers could enable funding through their pilot schemes</p>

Project Delivery Approach

Activities recommended for the NZN Officer



Project Delivery Approach

Project assurances and processes

Project assurance, including quality assurance, PAS 2035 compliance and escalation processes

Project assurance

To ensure effective management of the scheme, clear responsibilities should be established within CCC following the potential ward of funding. These should include responsibilities for delivery, and management (project manager), and responsibilities for overall accountability of success of programme (project sponsor/lead). These responsibilities should:

- Have clearly defined by project documents
- Have corresponding KPIs defined to monitor project delivery
- Ensure scheduling is in place for regular reporting of project progress, to assess project delivery and performance against KPIs, with CCC, WMCA and any steering groups that are established
- Establish a clear interface with WMCA, to assess performance against WMCA's requirements, and to share best practice from other LAs

Quality assurance

Delivering this programme to a high standard requires:

- Defined quality KPIs specific to each workstream, and assess performance against these (i.e. performance of measures by certain qualified people, e.g. installation of insulation, contractors and design consultants)
- Assessment of the supply chain against accreditations and certifications to assess for best practice

PAS2035 compliance

To ensure there is compliance with PAS2035 within the retrofit workstreams:

- For the NZN Officer role, hiring an employee with PAS2035 accreditation should be considered as this would assist with carrying out with surveys and ensuring compliance.
- Consider utilising revenue budget for PAS2035 training for project team members.

- Consider hiring retrofit co-ordinators and assessors, if not in house already.

Escalation processes

To ensure the appropriate escalation processes are in place:

- Individual projects will have delivery plans with milestones. These must be reported against by PM to project lead/ NZN Officer
- There will be an agreed process for escalating issues from project lead to WMCA.

Evidence and evaluation approach to monitor progress and gather lessons throughout the project

Evidence and evaluation approach

The evaluation approach and supporting approach will involve:

- Development of project plans, KPIs, and measures, as per above. The Logic Model will also be used as a basis for this (see below)
- Gathering lessons learnt, and engagement with other LAs developing NZNs to share these
- Defined responsibility of project manager. Report on these to project lead on periodic basis (half yearly)

Monitoring and evaluation

Logic Model

The impact of interventions correlating with the WMCA Logic Model will be tracked via the Logic Model spreadsheet designed by WMCA. This exercise already has recommended monitoring methodologies attached, which will be adopted. By using this tool, the delivery team will be able to clearly establish who is responsible for managing and tracking the logic model outcomes/outputs along with the different interventions that apply to these. It will also support with keeping track of the project once it is live.

This tool also allows for social value and engagement to be monitored based on the TOMs methodology. Measuring social value and engagement will be an important aspect of this project, as the success of it is heavily reliant on the input and engagement of the residents.

Delivery model and contract management plan

Delivery model

The delivery model of the NZNP :

- Uses net zero neighbourhood pilot funding to test innovations and interventions that can be delivered with partners (i.e. Citizen and E.ON)
- Will give partners the confidence on viability of projects, which CCC can then scale up across other parts of Hillfields and Coventry.
- Draw upon the 3Ci recommendations and assess where else may be suitable within Hillfields following further community engagement. Example delivery models are also detailed within the Net Zero Taskforce Findings.

Contract Management plan

Contracts established for delivery of the NZN will be managed by Coventry City Council's standard contract management processes, overseen by NZN project manager, these could be:

- Project Management: pull on from internal resources
- Contracts Manager: from a construction-based background: Band H (£42-47k)

CCC would require the following to pull technical expertise:

- Retrofit Co-ordinators/ Assessors-full time technical role, to ensure buildings are compliant with PAS2035. Previous procurement exercises indicate that this role equates out
- Commercial Input: Surveyor

Whether this is internal or externally sourced resources is dependent on timing and capacity at the point of being ready to deliver the plan. CCC is aiming to deliver the plan within 18 to 24 months to maintain the momentum and buy in from stakeholders and community.

Grant funding will be tracked and managed through standard CCC procedures to ensure effective use of funding and tracked progress.

Conclusion



Conclusion

Key outcomes of the Net Zero Neighbourhood Plan

The plan aims to fulfil the specification of a NZN, where:

- energy needs are reduced through demand reduction measures
- remaining energy needs for transport, heat and power are met through decarbonised energy sources
- and wider measures are taken to create a sustainable place to live.

Focus areas of the Plan

Following a baseline review of the local area, the plan has identified interventions across the specified sectors of the built environment, low carbon mobility, the natural environment and community growth and engagement. The following priorities for investment have been identified based on a holistic review of the local area:

Priority 1: Reducing energy demands and domestic emissions to enable a transition to net zero emissions

Priority 2: Creating a sustainable place to live

The rationale for these priorities is due to:

- the detailed understanding of the built environment of Coventry, it is the retrofit measures that are anticipated to be the most effective to scale up across Coventry and the whole of West Midlands.
- The high levels of Fuel poverty in the area
- The opportunities for investment from partners in the built environment and energy sectors
- There are existing discussions and programmes of work within the community that strive to create a more sustainable place to live that can be progressed by the NZNP.

Why choose Hillfields?

As well as the existing discussions, and commissioning of design options, there are many schemes existing community groups working hard to improve the community and educate the residents

The NZNP would support, enhance and scale up the existing initiatives and in turn help the Hillfields residents feel supported by WMCA and CCC.

The Community Engagement Plan outlines the channels of engagement available to the NZN Officer in implementing the plan, with several community hubs, events and forums available.

Whilst there are particular challenges in Hillfields surrounding language barriers, anti-social behaviour and high levels of deprivation, it is clear the residents are eager to improve their neighbourhood and there is already energy in this area that the NZNP can build on.

How Coventry City Council will utilise funding

The funding will be spent on interventions that support longer term interventions that can have a lasting impact on the community, such as PAs2035 retrofit surveys that will support light and deep retrofit in the medium and long term.

Funding will also be spent on interventions specified by the community, for the community, such as on the public spaces and providing walkable, safe and appealing neighbourhoods.

Where possible, funding will be procured through partner organisations that are seeking to identify areas for pilot schemes.

Management of the awarded funds will be through CCC's procedures to ensure that progress is evaluated throughout the programme and allocated funds are spent according with the activities set out in the Project Delivery Plan.



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