



Mansfield Local Plan Review

Net Zero Carbon support

Work Package 5: Funding

Version 2
May 2026



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Background

1. Bioregional (in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, CSE) is appointed to provide Mansfield District Council (MDC / Mansfield DC) with an assessment of options available within the Local Planning system to address climate change in Mansfield.
2. Our current appointment to support Mansfield DC in this effort comprises the following:
 - Work Package 1: Literature Review (completed)
 - Literature review & position statement, covering:
 - Exploring definitions of ‘net zero carbon’ at different scales
 - Exploring planning duties, and powers, to act towards achieving net zero carbon
 - Exploring how those powers have been used in precedents from other Local Plans, and the success of these at examination (and in practice, where known)
 - Net Zero position statement on the role of this Local Plan Review in achieving net zero.
 - Work Package 2: Renewable energy capacity (completed)
 - Led by CSE, this work conducted a renewable energy capacity analysis, updating the Low Carbon Energy Opportunities and Heat Mapping for Local Planning Areas Across the East Midlands.
 - This involved a desk-based analysis to conduct three separate assessments:
 - An assessment of existing decentralised renewable energy
 - An assessment of technical potential of renewable energy
 - An assessment of heat demand at building level.
 - Outputs from the three assessments will inform the Local Plan Review as the information will be used to analyse the relevance and propriety of Policy CC1 criteria.
 - Work Package 3: Energy standards (completed)
 - This output presented an assessment based on the statutory powers established in the literature review to present policy options for the District Council to consider.
 - It included a Policy Risk Matrix, covering:
 - Identification of a range of potential policy options derived from the powers, precedents and definitions of ‘net zero’ buildings from Work Package 1
 - An evaluation of the relative merits of each of those potential policy options, in terms of differing risks in different criteria including climate

mitigation effectiveness, consistency with relevant national policy, and various other important issues.

- Work Package 4: Sustainable Design Principles (ongoing at the time of writing)
 - This will be shaped by the outcomes of Work Package 3 where the decision on the policy options from the policy matrix will determine the approach to the review of Policy P5.
 - Policy P5 Review as designed in our current appointment
 - Assess the wording and scope of the policy
 - Benchmark standards against national and regional best practice
 - An assessment of proposed design measures for different developments, typologies, and scale.
- Work Package 5: Funding (the current report)
 - This final item in our current appointment is designed to provide guidance on relevant and available funding streams and best practices to support climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives within the district. This will involve desk-based research and the development of a final report.
 - The outputs of this work package may be reshaped after discussions during work package 3 and 4, depending on whether this funding focus still meets the Council's most important needs or whether there are other potential uses for this part of the scope of work.

3. This report comprises **Work Package 5**.

Purpose of this document

4. This report provides a high-level assessment and guidance on funding mechanisms available to support climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives within the district – acknowledging the potentially significant costs associated with these initiatives.
5. This document can be used by Mansfield DC to provide guidance to public bodies, businesses, community groups and residents on funding schemes available to them.
6. This main document gives an overview of funding mechanisms, as well as case studies, covering the topics of:
 - Retrofit and energy efficiency;
 - Renewable and low-carbon energy;
 - Transport and air quality; and
 - Nature-based solutions.
7. A spreadsheet with further detail of each scheme is provided separately to keep this main document succinct and easy to navigate.

Navigation

8. In the next section, we will outline the types of climate actions that are within the scope of the Local Plan Review. This will help define the scope of funding mechanisms to include in this report.
9. Following that, we will give a broad overview of available funding mechanisms through Table 1, with further detailed provided in a spreadsheet separately.
10. Finally, we have included four case studies to demonstrate how different places in England have made use of various funding arrangements to bring forward climate-positive place-based projects.

Climate actions within the scope of the Local Plan Review

11. As discussed in the Literature Review of Work Package 1 (particularly pp. 28-33), a concerted effort from various sectors is required for the UK to achieve net zero by 2050. This includes action from the private sector, public bodies and the general public (residents and community groups).
12. These efforts are wide ranging. Some areas fall within the influence of the Local Plan Review – which, according to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has a duty to contribute to climate change mitigation in line with the Climate Change Act 2008.
13. Broadly, these policy areas include:
 - Retrofit and energy efficiency
 - Setting energy efficiency standards for new development
 - Encouraging retrofit of existing buildings
 - Taking a cautious but permissive stance towards retrofit of historic buildings
 - Renewable and low-carbon energy
 - Encouraging the development of renewable and low-carbon energy, particularly solar and onshore wind
 - Encouraging the development of community energy
 - Transport and air quality
 - Adopt a vision-led approach to transport planning
 - Placing development in locations with good access to shops, GPs, schools and other amenities
 - Encouraging active travel and reducing car reliance
 - Nature-based solutions
 - Encouraging carbon sequestration through greening
 - Encouraging Sustainable Drainage Systems
14. The government published a draft National Planning Policy Framework for consultation in December 2025. In a major departure from previous iterations of the NPPF, this draft divides between plan-making and decision-making.
15. Since MDC is submitting its Local Plan through the legacy planning system, the Draft NPPF – even when adopted – will have limited effect on the plan making process for this iteration of the Local Plan Review. Having said that, the Draft NPPF indicates the direction of travel of government policy and may result in closer scrutiny in the examination process.
16. The Draft NPPF’s sections on development management, however, may affect how the weight of the Local Plan’s policies in future decision-making. According to Annex A of the Draft NPPF, “development plan policies ... inconsistent with the national decision-making policies in this Framework should be given very limited weight”.

17. In particular, DM7 (Relationship with other regulatory regimes) states that planning decisions ‘should not seek to duplicate or extend controls imposed by separate regulatory regimes other than where there is a development plan policy in place applying optional technical standards for the development proposed’. This includes Building Regulations and will have particular impact on Local Plan policies on retrofit and energy efficiency.
18. However, it is important to note that two other decision-making policies, CC2 (Mitigation of climate change) and CC3 (Adaptation to climate change) continue to assert the need for proposals to mitigate climate change and support the transition to net zero.

Funding mechanisms

19. Table 1 presents various available funding mechanisms relevant to the above. It indicates the eligible applicants for each scheme, and the types of initiatives that are accepted. Further detail is provided in the separate spreadsheet.
20. The table reflects the funding landscape at the time of writing (May 2026). Schemes identified here may become unavailable, or new schemes may emerge in the future. The [Carbon net zero funding and grants page](#)¹ hosted by the Government Commercial Agency is a good resource to locate funding at time when funding is required.

¹ Government Commercial Agency. Carbon net zero funding and grants: <https://www.gca.gov.uk/social-value/carbon-net-zero/funding-and-grants>.
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Table 1 Eligible applicants and initiatives for various available funding mechanisms.

Funding mechanisms	Who can apply			Eligible initiatives			
	Public sector	Private sector	Residents/ community groups	Retrofit & energy efficiency	Renewable and low-carbon energy	Transport and air quality	Nature-based solutions
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	x			x	x		
Warm and Healthy Homes grants			x	x			
Community Energy Fund			x		x		
ECO4 Flex			x	x			
Switch Together			x	x	x		
Pride in Place Impact fund	x		x	x	x	x	x
Consolidated Active Travel Fund	x					x	
Cyclehoop Education Fund		x	x			x	
Electric vehicle chargepoint grant for renters and flat owners			x			x	
Electric vehicle chargepoint grant for households with on-street parking			x			x	
Workplace Charging Scheme	x	x				x	
Electric vehicle chargepoint and infrastructure grants for landlords		x				x	
Trees for Climate by Greenwood Community Forest	x	x					x
Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)	x	x	x				x
Free Trees for Schools and Communities	x	x	x				x
National Wealth Fund local government support	x			x	x	x	x
Midlands Engine Investment Fund II		x		x	x	x	x
Midlands Net Zero Hub Local Project Support	x			x	x	x	

Case studies

21. Across England, businesses, public bodies and resident and community groups have used these funding sources, or similar, to bring about climate-positive changes. We have included four case studies below to illustrate how funding can unlock climate mitigation actions, as well as co-benefits, such as health and reduced bills.
22. These case studies can serve as inspiration for Mansfield DC, as well as businesses and residents in the district, to deliver maximum benefits with the funding.

Deep retrofit of Lancaster West Estate with London Mayor's Green Finance Fund

23. The London Mayor's [Green Finance Fund](#) is a £500million fund providing finance to projects that deliver London's net zero ambitions, covering the areas of energy efficiency, transport and renewable energy.
24. The Fund was backed by the National Wealth Fund (previously the UK Infrastructure Bank) with a £190 million loan.
25. As of the end of the 2024-2025 financial year, the Green Finance Fund has allocated £318.6 million, supporting 11 high-impact projects.
26. One of the projects that has received funding is the Deep Retrofit of Lancaster West Estate in North Kensington, brought forward by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
27. The work is part of a wider £244 million resident-led refurbishment of the estate following the Grenfell tragedy.
28. When completed, it will bring the average EPC rating in the Estate up from Band D to B/C. The project does not only help reduce heating-related carbon emissions, but will also alleviate fuel poverty and improve thermal comfort for residents.
29. This case study is an example of how devolved government's funding, with National Wealth Fund's support, can unlock climate action, while delivering other objectives such as health and social justice.

Bristol City Leap Community Energy Fund

30. The £1.5 million [Bristol City Leap Community Energy Fund](#) supports community-led energy projects through a combination of grants and loans. It was established with contributions (£750,000 each) from energy infrastructure developers Ameresco and Vattenfall. They are Bristol City Council's partners in its district heat network development.
31. One of the beneficiaries was the [Windmill Hill City Farm](#), a charity that provides education, recreation and therapeutic activities to enhance wellbeing and inclusion in the community.

32. The farm has secured three grants so far:

- An initial feasibility study to establish the possibilities of connection to the Bristol heat network;
- A detailed feasibility to examine the heating potential of seven buildings within the farm; and
- A retrofit options appraisal to enable them to receive match funding from large grants, which was used to improve the Old Dairy building.

33. Alongside the installation of the Bristol heat network through the Farm, Vattenfall is also delivering a package of wider community improvements, such as enhanced walkways, resurfaced vehicle paths, and new entry gates and fencing.

34. The Farm's Chief Executive Steve Sayers reflected that the bite-sized approach of the Fund was effective in advancing their project step-by-step. The collaboration with Bristol City Leap has also provided access to various expertise and support.

35. This example demonstrates the power of public-private partnership and the benefits of providing smaller grants and loans for each stage of a project as it evolves.

Mayor's Active Travel Fund in York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

36. The [York and North Yorkshire Mayor's Active Travel Fund](#) is an example of a Combined Authority shaping transport outcomes and improving health through local funding.

37. The £4 million Fund, launched in 2026, supports initiatives that

- Improve walking routes;
- Increase accessibility, such as installing dropped kerbs;
- Build skills and confidence through cycle training or safe spaces to learn;
- Encourage behaviour change, such as School Streets, bike buses and park and stride schemes; and
- Provide secure cycle storage.

38. It is part of the Mayor's £7 million Moving Forward campaign, which aims to create a healthier and thriving York and North Yorkshire.

39. While this is a new funding opportunity and no specific project is available for evaluation at the moment, this provides a good example of a devolved government allocating funding to drive climate-positive outcomes.

New woodland in Mansfield with Trees for Climate funding

40. This is a local example in Mansfield, where a [new woodland](#) is created on a District Council site with [Trees for Climate](#) funding.
41. The site has no agricultural value and has had little use over the years. It was originally a quarry and then a landfill in the 1950s. The project, managed locally by Sherwood Forest Trust, will transform the plot into a new recreational woodland with 3,500 trees planted.
42. It is estimated that each tree can capture up to 150kg of carbon per year. The additional 3,500 trees can hence be expected to capture up to 525 metric tons of carbon annually.
43. Mansfield has received £61,000 over the years to create new woodlands. Around 7,000 trees have been planted since 2023 with the help of nearly 500 volunteers.
44. Species of the trees and locations were carefully considered to avoid potential impact on neighbouring properties with overhanging branches and root growth, and to minimise the need for maintenance.
45. This project shows that nature-based solutions are cost-effective. Alongside carbon sequestration, they can revive disused places and improve public access.

Conclusion

This report has summarised various funding mechanisms for initiatives that contribute to net zero, focusing on four policy areas that are within the influence of a local plan. These are:

- Retrofit and energy efficiency
- Renewable and low-carbon energy
- Transport and air quality
- Nature-based solutions

Table 1, and the spreadsheet that accompanies this report, offer a clear view of the types of entities eligible for each funding scheme.

The four case studies in London, Bristol, Mansfield and York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority demonstrate how funding can be deployed to deliver a range of outcomes across different scales.

It is important to note that this document reflects the funding landscape at the time of writing. This may evolve in the future. Grant/ funding applicants are advised to check the latest information for their projects. The [Carbon net zero funding and grants page](#) hosted by the Government Commercial Agency is a good resource for this.