



A Community Climate Investment Plan for Southmead

May 2026

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Putting local people at the heart of the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient neighbourhood.



Acknowledgements

The development of this Community Climate Investment Plan for Southmead has been a shared endeavour, shaped by the knowledge, commitment and leadership of a range of local partners and communities.

The plan was produced by CSE in partnership with Southmead Development Trust and Bristol City Council, whose combined expertise in community development, local government and energy systems has been central to shaping both its ambition and its practical grounding. In particular, the leadership of Southmead Development Trust has ensured that the priorities, concerns, and lived experiences of local residents sit at the heart of this work and that it builds on previous work in the neighbourhood.

We thank the many residents, community organisations, and local stakeholders who contributed time, insight and experience. Their contributions have helped ensure this plan reflects the realities of life in Southmead and the opportunities for community climate action.

This work was funded by Innovate UK through its Net Zero Living Programme, which supports place-based innovation to accelerate progress towards a net-zero future. This funding enabled us to have the time and space to explore and test new approaches to community-led climate investment.



Preface

This plan starts from a simple premise: that putting local people and places at the heart of climate investment is essential to delivering a faster, fairer and more effective transition. It builds on years of community-led climate action in Southmead and across Bristol, including the neighbourhood's Community Climate Action Plan and engagement through the Mission Net Zero and Transforming Energy Together programmes. Southmead is well suited to place-based climate investment, with consistent housing typologies, strong and trusted community infrastructure, emerging delivery examples and a pipeline of opportunity. Taken together, this context creates favourable conditions for coordinated action. This document sets out how targeted funding and investment could translate these foundations into practical improvements to homes, energy systems and neighbourhood infrastructure while retaining social and economic benefits locally.



Community Climate Action in Bristol

The **Community Climate Action Project** (CCA), led by Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership and funded by the National Lottery's Climate Action fund, saw the development of Climate Action Plans in neighbourhoods across Bristol.¹ These plans, the first of their kind in the country, captured the priorities and ambitions of communities, demonstrated the important role they can play in achieving the city's climate and nature ambitions and provided a social mandate for future action. Knowle West's plan, "Climate Conversations" captured a bold vision for the neighbourhood and forms a core foundation for this Community Climate Investment Plan.²

Mission Net Zero and the Net Zero Living Programme

Run by Innovate UK, the **Net Zero Living Programme** looked to build new partnerships between businesses and local authorities to deliver new solutions, improve local services and open markets for economic growth, by optimising opportunities, accelerating adoption and scaling what works. In Bristol, **Mission Net Zero** was an ambitious project funded through the programme to make Bristol a more sustainable and inclusive city in support of the **Bristol One City Climate Strategy**, which aims for Bristol to be a carbon neutral and climate resilient city.³ The project worked to speed up the West of England's transition to net zero by tackling barriers such as limited access to finance, slow take-up of domestic retrofit and a shortage of skilled workers.

Transforming Energy Together

Transforming Energy Together (TET) was a central part of the Mission Net Zero project, led by the **Centre for Sustainable Energy**, working with local organisations, and supported by Mission Net Zero partners.⁴

Through TET three local organisations - **Eastside Community Trust**, **Knowle West Media Centre** and **Southmead Development Trust** were selected to pilot a new, community-led approach to planning investment in energy projects.

Building on the Community Climate Action Plans for their areas, the local organisations worked with the project partners to explore how the needs, priorities and concerns articulated by local people through the CCA process could be

met by community-led and community-informed solutions in a way that offered value to investors and funders whilst building wider local interest in climate and energy action in the neighbourhood.

Alongside local engagement, the project also assessed how these projects might work in practice, considering both technical factors (such as the feasibility of renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures) and the social context (including affordability, local demand, and community readiness).

Together, the insights gained helped develop this Community Climate Investment Plan and associated pipeline of investment opportunities (see Section 4, and Appendix B).

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<i>A. Initial Community Needs Assessments</i>
A document that combines findings from the Community Climate Action Plans and early engagement undertaken through Transforming Energy Together for each of the three neighbourhoods.
<i>B. A Charter for Community Investment:</i>
A document co-produced with the three Transforming Energy Together community partners outlining a set of principles for investors looking to build community capability and capacity to aspire to.

Annexes

<i>I. Collective action for a thriving future:</i>
Southmead’s Community Climate Action Plan

Executive Summary

A neighbourhood ready for climate investment

Southmead is a distinctive Bristol neighbourhood with a strong tradition of community development, partnership working and practical action to improve everyday quality of life. With consistent housing typologies, trusted community infrastructure and active local organisations such as Southmead Development Trust, the area offers favourable conditions for neighbourhood-scale climate investment, presenting a clear opportunity to improve homes, neighbourhood spaces and local resilience while reducing carbon emissions. However, climate action must remain grounded in everyday realities: warmer homes, lower bills, better health and stronger community wellbeing must sit alongside emissions reduction.

Transforming Energy Together: from community action to citywide opportunity

This Community Climate Investment Plan translates local priorities into a practical investment framework. Building on the neighbourhood's Community Climate Action Plan and extensive engagement through the Mission Net Zero and Transforming Energy Together programmes, it sets out a pipeline of investable opportunities designed to deliver immediate benefits such as warmer homes, lower costs and improved wellbeing, while supporting long-term decarbonisation and resilience.

In doing so, the plan links community-identified needs with emerging national priorities around home upgrades, decentralised clean energy systems and the growth of green jobs and skills. A clear, locally grounded framework helps ensure national ambition translates into practical neighbourhood delivery, while strengthening the city's ability to coordinate investment and attract funding aligned with local priorities.

Developed through Mission Net Zero, this plan sits alongside similar Community Climate Investment Plans for Easton and Lawrence Hill and for Knowle West. While each plan can stand alone, together the three neighbourhoods form a strong and complementary portfolio for place-based climate investment across Bristol, creating opportunities to test approaches at scale, share learning and develop delivery models with wider regional and national relevance.

Key lessons for future delivery

Developing this Community Climate Investment Plan has involved sustained engagement with residents, local organisations, delivery partners and technical specialists. This process has provided valuable practical insight into what could enable neighbourhood climate investment to succeed - not just technically, but socially, economically and organisationally. These insights include:

- **Start with real lives, not just technical models.** Retrofit and energy projects are most effective when designed around how people actually live and use their homes and neighbourhood spaces.
- **Work with trusted community partners as core partners.** Strong local organisations bring knowledge, relationships and practical capacity that build confidence, reduce delivery risk and increase participation.
- **Take joined-up, neighbourhood-scale approaches.** Coordinated action across housing providers, homeowners, community assets and public spaces improve fairness, efficiency and long-term impact.
- **Invest early in people, skills and project development.** Locally rooted training and community engagement underpin successful delivery and help ensure opportunities benefit residents directly.
- **Ensure benefits are retained locally.** Climate investment should strengthen local economic opportunity, supply chains, community infrastructure and long-term neighbourhood resilience.

Where investment can make a difference

Reflecting these lessons, the investment opportunities identified in this plan are organised around three interconnected themes designed not only to reduce emissions, but to strengthen the local economy and deliver lasting benefit for residents:

- **Homes** – Coordinated retrofit, low-carbon heating, solar deployment and early interventions to improve comfort, reduce bills and cut emissions, particularly across consistent housing typologies where neighbourhoods scale approaches can achieve efficiency and impact.
- **Neighbourhood** – Investment in shared infrastructure, green and public spaces, local energy systems and community assets that enhance resilience, environmental quality, health and social connection.
- **Skills** – Local training programmes, delivery partnerships and employment pathways that strengthen supply chains, support local enterprise and ensure that climate investment contributes to long-term economic opportunity in Southmead.

Together, these themes provide a practical pathway from community priorities to investable projects and scalable delivery. By aligning carbon reduction with health improvement, economic opportunity and community wellbeing, this approach shows how neighbourhood-scale climate investment can support inclusive growth, healthier communities and long-term resilience. Building on the partnerships and momentum established through this work, Southmead is well placed to help shape a coordinated, place-based model for climate investment across Bristol demonstrating how community-led action can translate into practical, lasting change.

1. A vision for the future

Southmead is a ward in north Bristol, home to around 13,200 people.⁵ Local residents and organisations in Southmead have articulated a shared vision for the neighbourhood, recognising the climate and nature crises not only as environmental challenges but as issues affecting health, affordability, opportunity and everyday quality of life.⁶ Community climate action offers a practical route to warmer homes, lower energy costs, greener neighbourhoods and stronger local opportunity. Delivering this will require sustained partnership working between local organisations, Bristol City Council and investors to translate community priorities into coordinated, scalable projects that build a resilient and thriving future for Southmead.



1.1

Where it began: A Climate Action Plan for Southmead

Southmead’s “Collective Action for a Thriving Future” plan underpins this Community Climate Investment Plan, reflecting the community’s ambition to shape climate action locally, address health and economic challenges, and build confidence by celebrating existing knowledge, assets, and initiatives in the neighbourhood.

The plan was co-produced by Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership (BCNP) and Southmead Development Trust with local residents in 2024 through workshops, creative activities, and community media.⁷

As well as demonstrating the important role communities can play in the identification of opportunities to deliver the city’s decarbonisation ambitions, it also outlined a local view of success, with warm, dry and affordable homes, collective action, inclusion and participation at its centre.

A more-in depth list of priorities from the plan are outlined here.



Key local priorities: a summary⁸



Transport

- Improve access to affordable, reliable and accessible public transport.
- Make it easier, safer and more pleasant for people to move around the neighbourhood.
- Support the transition to low-emission vehicles through accessible charging infrastructure.



Energy

- Increase local renewable energy generation through community-led initiatives and partnerships.
- Support residents, organisations and businesses to reduce energy costs while improving comfort, resilience and environmental performance.



Homes and buildings

- Improve the energy efficiency, comfort and affordability of homes across Southmead.
- Support community buildings, schools and places of worship to act as exemplars of low-carbon, climate-resilient spaces.
- Ensure new development contributes positively to climate goals while supporting affordability, biodiversity and local quality of life.



Nature

- Enhance green infrastructure and biodiversity across the neighbourhood.
- Ensure all residents have access to high-quality green spaces that support wellbeing, climate resilience and community connection.
- Create opportunities for young people and families to engage with nature through learning, play and stewardship.



Business and Education

- Expand opportunities for residents, particularly young people, to develop skills, knowledge and pathways into climate and nature-focused careers.
- Support businesses and community organisations to play an active role in the transition to a low-carbon local economy.



Waste and Resources

- Support sharing, reuse and repair initiatives that reduce costs and waste.
- Reduce litter, fly-tipping and environmental degradation.
- Promote circular economy approaches including increased recycling and reduced single-use plastics.

1.2

Going deeper: Transforming Energy Together

As part of the Transforming Energy Together (TET) project, Southmead Development Trust re-engaged residents across the neighbourhood to explore these priorities in more depth, identifying barriers to local action and the support needed to progress them into projects. This work was delivered through a wide range of inclusive engagement activities, with barriers such as language, accessibility needs and a lack of time pro-actively addressed. These activities included⁹:

What Southmead Development Trust did

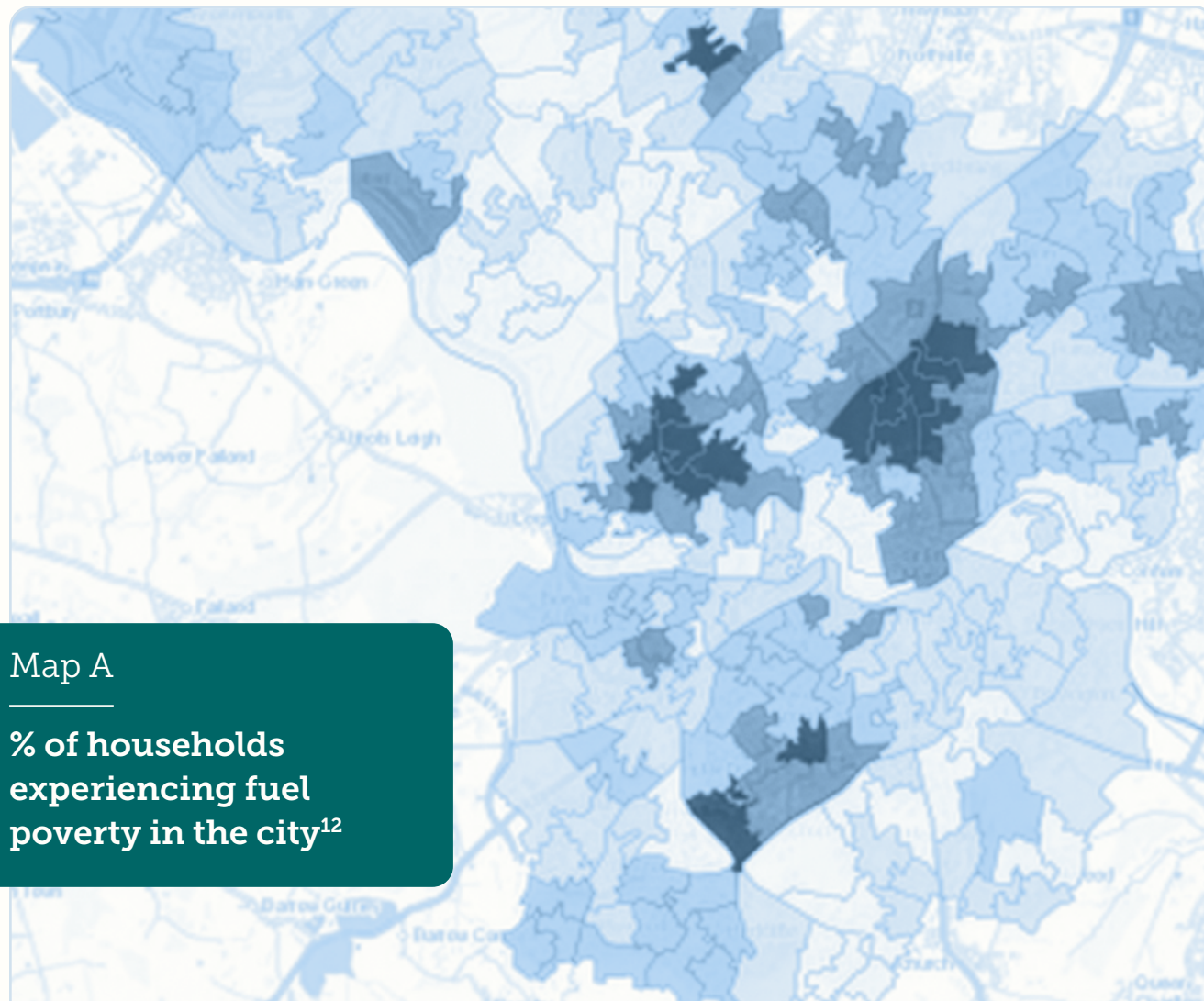
- Ran **19** pop ups at cafes, pubs, The Ranch adventure playground and shopping streets **to talk to people**
- Conducted **23** Interviews with residents and professional partners
- Ran **20** Green skills sessions at The Ranch
- Hosted **5** Bristol Energy Network events
- Door knocked **7** streets (over **400** houses!)
- Had **164** responses from local people to two questionnaires about what they want to see in the neighbourhood



1.3

Life in Southmead: Lived experience, evidence and implications for climate action and investment

To bring together insights from the Community Climate Action Plan¹⁰ and the further engagement undertaken through the Transforming Energy Together programme, an Initial Community Needs Assessment was developed for Southmead¹¹ (see Appendix A). This draws on the engagement activities outlined in Section 1.2, local partner input and a range of supporting data to capture common lived experiences in the neighbourhood. These findings highlight that climate action in Southmead is closely tied to everyday concerns including housing quality, health, affordability and access to trusted information - indicating how climate investment should be designed, delivered and communicated in the neighbourhood. The following tables summarises the main recurring themes, pairing them with relevant data and highlighting their implications for climate action in the neighbourhood.



Key theme 1:

Healthy, affordable homes and living conditions

What residents experience	Homes can be uncomfortable, with overheating, cold conditions and energy costs affecting health and quality of life, particularly for older residents or those with mobility challenges.
Key evidence and data	• 41% of households in the neighbourhood include someone with a limiting health condition or disability, and life expectancy remains below the Bristol average for both men and women. • An estimated 16% of residents experience fuel poverty, with some areas of the ward seeing as many as one-in-five households struggling (see Map A). • Residents describe difficult trade-offs between heating, food and other essentials, with some households delaying heating use, working additional hours to cover bills, or living in very cold indoor conditions, with temperatures in some homes dropping as low as 12–13°C in winter. • Older residents highlighted mobility challenges, security concerns about ventilation and difficulties sleeping in hotter conditions. • For renters, improving comfort often depends on coordinated action with landlords.
Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment	Prioritising comfort, health and affordability alongside carbon reduction will be critical to driving uptake locally. Coordinated neighbourhood-scale retrofit, delivered with trusted partners and strong resident engagement, can reduce delivery risk, improve participation and maximise health, cost and carbon benefits while building long-term confidence in climate programmes.

Key theme 2:
Inequality, affordability pressures and housing access

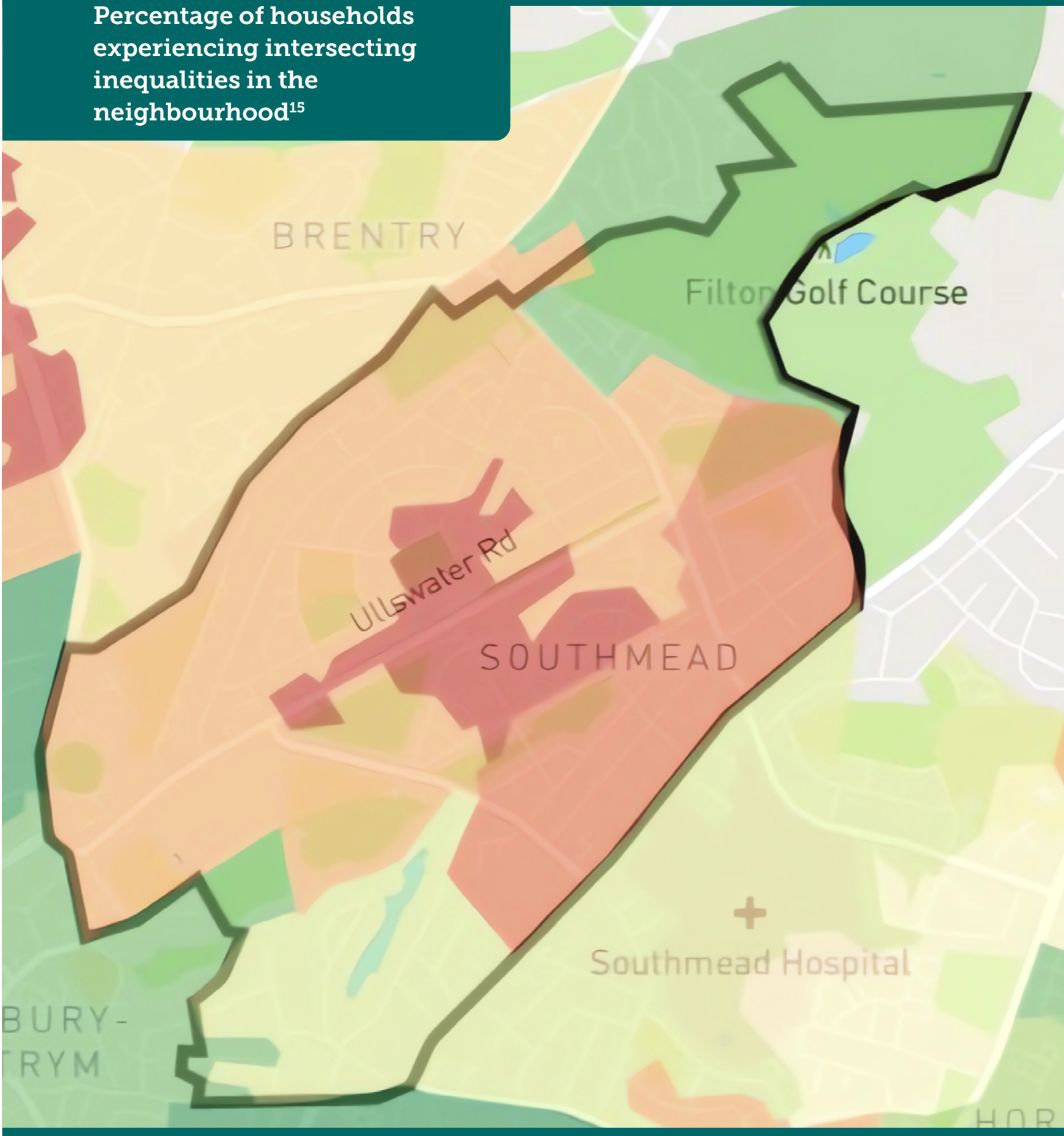
Key evidence and data	Financial pressures, rising housing costs and limited control over housing conditions affect residents’ ability to improve their homes. Renters in particular often feel unable to make changes, even where there is interest in improving comfort or reducing energy costs.
Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment	• Six of the eight Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the neighbourhood fall within the top 30% of deprivation nationally, with Southmead Central among the top 3.5% most deprived (see Map B). • House prices in the ward have more than doubled since 2011, increasing insecurity amongst renters, whilst only 27% of residents are satisfied with housing costs - 15% lower than the Bristol average. • Home ownership in the neighbourhood is around 50%, while social renting is nearly double the Bristol average at around 38%. This means many households rely on landlords or housing providers for improvements. • Engagement with residents highlighted strong sensitivity to upfront retrofit costs and payback, with some reporting that financial pressures and the increased cost-of-living limit willingness or ability to invest in improvements.¹³
Implications for climate action and investment	Addressing affordability constraints and tenure diversity is essential to enabling equitable participation in climate programmes. Area-based retrofit approaches involving landlords, housing providers, community organisations and public-sector partners can improve access to finance, reduce delivery costs and minimise displacement risk, while ensuring benefits are retained locally and programmes achieve meaningful scale.

“People... all they’re interested in is saving money. It’s not about education or anything like that — how much is this going to cost, how much will it save me, and how long will it take to recoup my money.”

Resident living in social housing¹⁴

Map B

Percentage of households experiencing intersecting inequalities in the neighbourhood¹⁵



Key theme 3:
Community diversity, health needs and accessibility

Key evidence and data	A diverse, changing community with varying health, cultural and accessibility needs shapes how residents engage with climate action. - The proportion of residents identifying as White British decreased by 12.9% between 2011 and 2021, with an increase of 9.2% across Other White, Mixed, Indian and Black African communities, reflecting Southmead’s increasingly diverse population. - This is also evident in language and migration patterns: around 16% of residents have a main language other than English (compared with 10% across Bristol), and approximately 25% were born outside the UK (Bristol average 19%). - Southmead therefore includes multilingual households, long-established residents and newer arrivals. This contributes to a dynamic and evolving community context and reinforces the importance of accessible communication and culturally appropriate engagement. Community engagement activities were described as particularly important for building belonging and trust, particularly for newer residents and culturally diverse households. - Alongside this diversity, around 9% of residents provide unpaid care (compared with 8% citywide), indicating additional time pressures and accessibility needs that can affect participation in climate initiatives. - The population is older than the Bristol average, with around 15% of residents aged 65 or older (compared to 13% for the wider city). - Residents emphasised the importance of trusted information, accessible support and locally embedded organisations, particularly where health conditions, caring responsibilities or housing tenure limit individual agency.¹⁶
Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment	
Implications for climate action and investment	Inclusive, culturally appropriate engagement delivered through trusted local organisations will be central to reaching diverse households and sustaining participation. Investment in community capacity, accessible communication and ongoing support can reduce delivery risk and help ensure climate programmes achieve lasting uptake and impact.

Key theme 4:
Skills, opportunity and future resilience

Key evidence and data	Residents of all ages show interest in practical skills linked to sustainability, home improvement and local employment, but may face barriers to traditional education pathways, confidence, access to training, or clear routes into emerging green sectors. - Southmead has a relatively young population (around 26% under 18), indicating significant future potential for skills development linked to the low-carbon economy. - School absence rates are relatively high at around 13% compared with 11% across Bristol, the third highest rate in the city. - Around 31% of residents hold degree-level qualifications, below the Bristol average of 42%, highlighting the importance of accessible, practical learning routes alongside academic pathways. - Local youth and community initiatives provide alternative learning environments and informal skills development opportunities. - Residents across age groups report interest in practical skills related to home energy improvements, repair, retrofit and sustainable living, but often lack accessible routes, trusted advice or funding support.¹⁷
Delivering the vision: implications for climate action and investment	
Implications for climate action and investment	Strengthening local skills and employment pathways can enhance both economic resilience and the effectiveness of climate delivery. Partnerships with community organisations, training providers and employers can build local supply chains, create accessible green jobs and help retain the economic benefits of climate investment within the neighbourhood. Pilot youth and community initiatives at informal learning spaces such as The Ranch suggest that locally rooted, practical learning environments can support participation, confidence-building and progression into training, employment or further education.
	“Me and my husband are very much nature friendly, and we like to have enough warm in our home... it was very cold during the winter, so my husband and my son did the insulation themselves. It was hard work, but they learned it themselves. Because we all have our own ideas about how to maintain our house and where we need to make changes or protections.” Local owner occupier¹⁸

Key theme 5:
Environmental resilience and neighbourhood change

Key evidence
and data

Residents report growing awareness of climate impacts, particularly overheating, flooding risk, environmental quality and energy affordability. Interest in renewable energy, nature-based improvements and fairer energy systems is increasing, alongside concern about how climate risks affect everyday comfort, health and household costs.

- Southmead is identified as a medium-to-high heat exposure area, with some areas of the neighbourhood facing particularly high vulnerability risk, especially for children and older residents.
- Around 15% of homes report overheating in hot weather, with residents describing indoor temperatures exceeding 30°C during heat waves.
- Climate projections indicate increasing surface water flood risk locally, with Southmead identified as a priority flood mitigation area linked to drainage capacity and impermeable urban surfaces.
- Air quality concern remains significant, with around 70% of residents identifying it as a local problem.
- Tree canopy cover varies across the neighbourhood but remains uneven, contributing to local heat disparity and environmental inequality.
- Residents report interest in renewable energy and community-scale energy approaches, alongside concerns about affordability, export tariffs and fairness in energy markets.
- High participation in nature-related activities indicates interest in neighbourhood improvement, with around 21% already taking action to increase nature in their gardens and the wider area.¹⁹

Implications
for climate
action and
investment

Combining climate adaptation with decarbonisation through building improvements, green infrastructure and local energy initiatives can help improve comfort, affordability and resilience to overheating, flooding and rising energy costs. Neighbourhood-scale delivery models that build trust and coordinate investment across homes, infrastructure and community assets can support wider uptake while ensuring benefits are shared locally. Investment in retrofit cooling measures, urban greening and community energy systems offers opportunities to improve health, reduce bills and strengthen long-term energy resilience.

Taken together, these findings indicate that climate action in Southmead must reduce pressure on households, build trust through locally rooted delivery models, and prioritise improvements that deliver immediate benefits in comfort, affordability and health. Coordinated neighbourhood-scale approaches supported by partnership working and sustained investment are likely to deliver the greatest impact, rather than relying on individual household action alone.

“We’ve got quite big windows... lovely for light, but we’ve struggled to keep it cool... our home office got to 32 degrees inside. So we just don’t use that room... I want something outside that will climb and shield the windows.”

Local resident in shared ownership property²⁰



2. Southmead: the neighbourhood

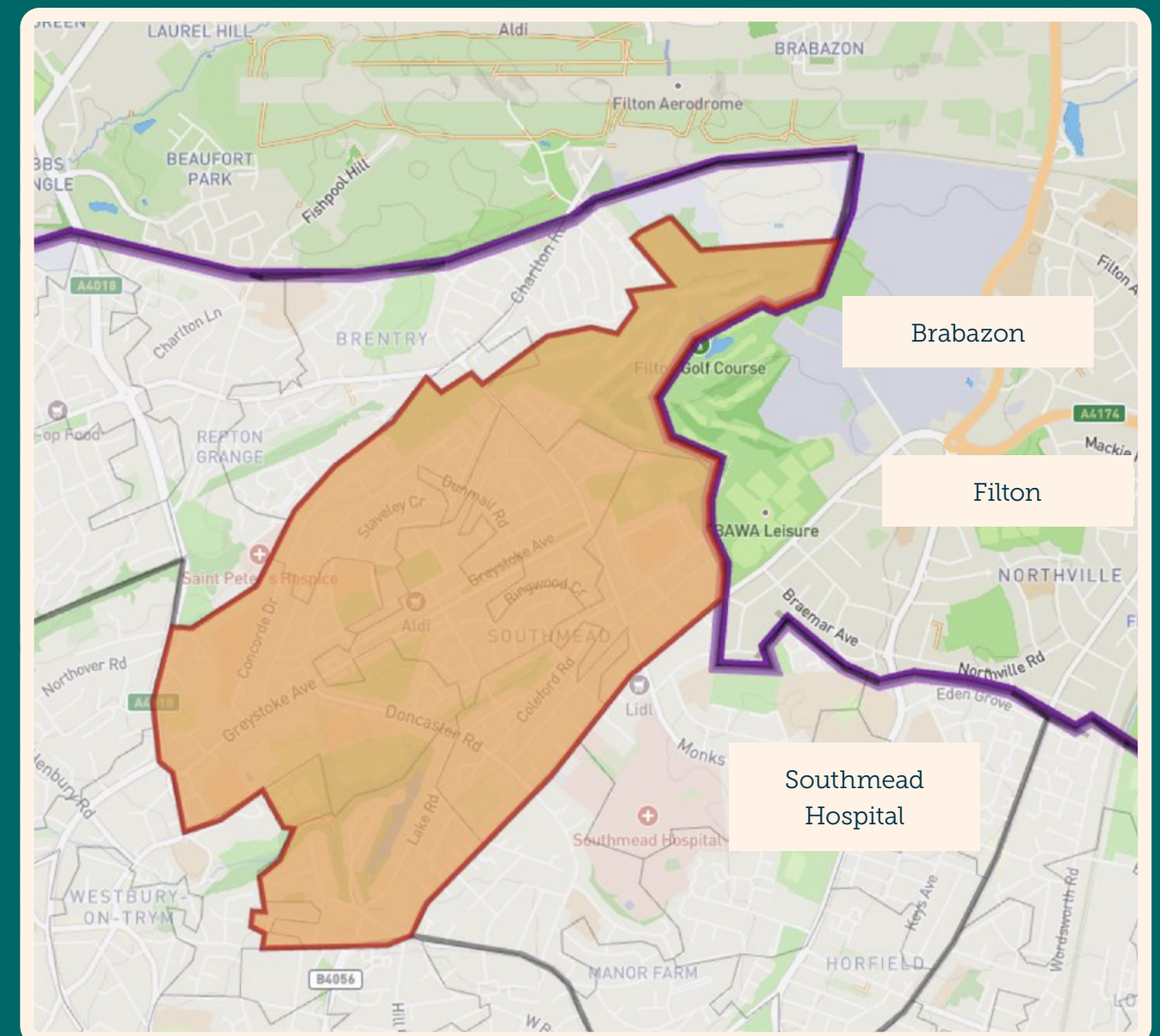
Bordering South Gloucestershire and several major employment, retail and health sites including Southmead Hospital, Cribbs Causeway and the emerging Brabazon development, Southmead's location presents both opportunities for economic connection and challenges linked to infrastructure, housing quality and environmental pressures.

The neighbourhood is a place of strong community identity and resilience but significant social, health and economic inequalities. Many residents face barriers linked to housing conditions, affordability, accessibility and employment opportunities, shaping how climate action needs to be designed and delivered locally.²¹

Southmead has a long history of community-led action, supported by trusted local organisations, active community groups and resident leadership. Building on these assets, while ensuring fairness, accessibility and tangible local benefit, will be essential for successful climate investment in the neighbourhood.

Map C

The Southmead neighbourhood²²



2.1

The carbon emissions baseline

The estimated average annual consumption-based carbon footprint for a household in Southmead is 10.8tCO₂e, 15% lower than the Bristol average of 12.7tCO₂e.²³

This includes emissions linked to housing energy, transport, food, goods and services, reflecting the wider impacts of everyday consumption rather than direct household emissions alone. A breakdown of these by sector is shown in Chart A.

The total annual emissions associated with all activity across the neighbourhood, Southmead’s ‘territorial emissions’, are approximately 32,000 tCO₂e.²⁴

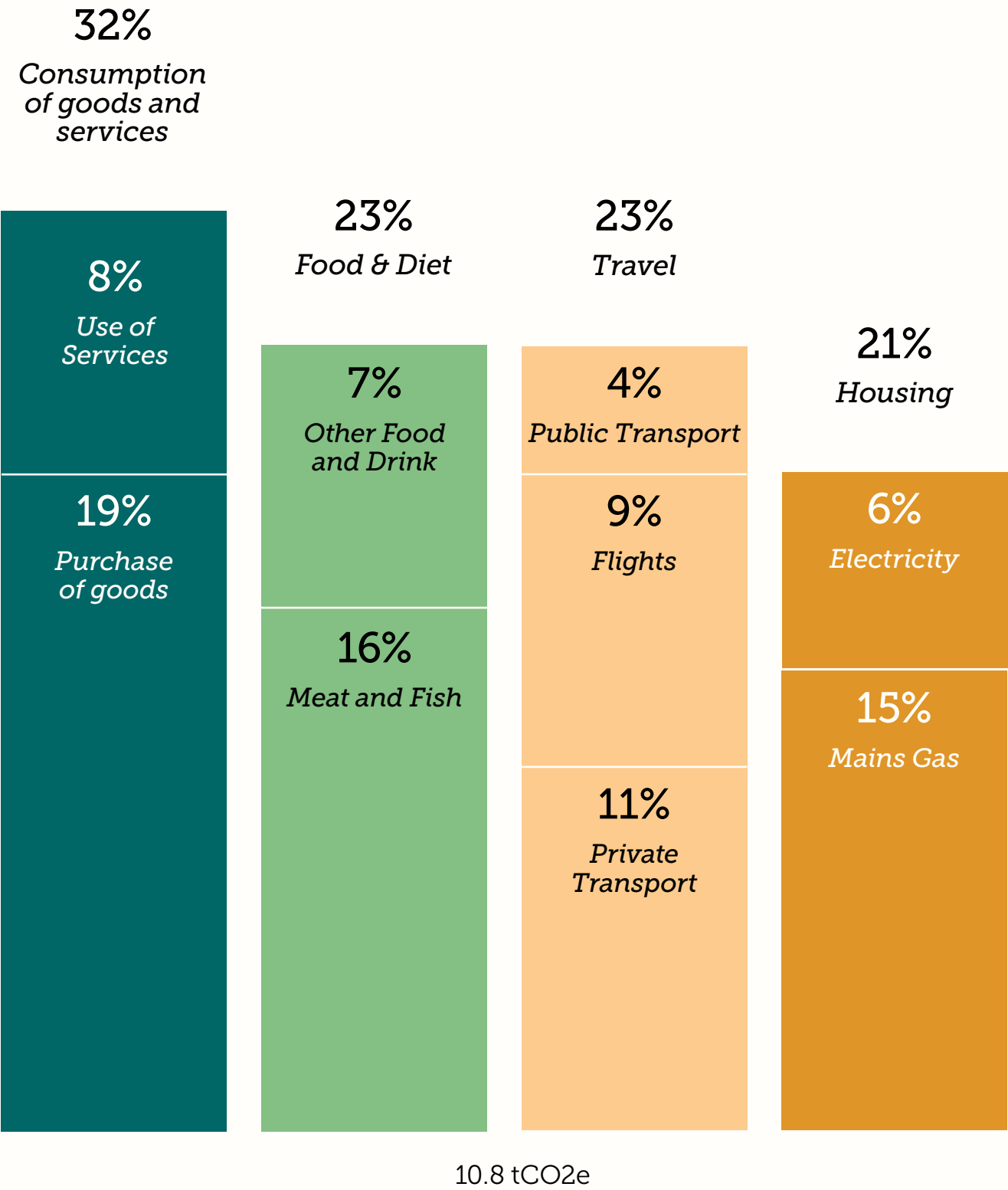
Climate justice

As outlined in Section 1.3, climate priorities in Southmead are closely shaped by housing affordability, health, accessibility and everyday cost-of-living pressures. Lower consumption-based emissions locally largely reflect structural factors such as housing tenure, income levels and limited household agency over improvements, rather than widespread uptake of low-carbon technologies.

This context reinforces the importance of neighbourhood-scale climate action that reduces emissions while improving comfort, affordability and resilience. Delivery through landlords, community organisations and trusted local partners will be essential to ensuring benefits are shared equitably and that climate investment supports a just and inclusive transition for Southmead.

Chart A

Annual household consumption footprint by sector for Southmead²⁵



2.2

Housing stock and tenure

Approximately 39% of Southmead’s total territorial carbon emissions come from local homes,²⁶ highlighting the central role housing retrofit can play in delivering climate, affordability and health outcomes in the neighbourhood.

Of the 5,500 homes in Southmead, almost two-thirds were built between 1931 and 1954 as planned council estates influenced by garden city principles²⁷ (see Chart A). This consistency, particularly the prevalence of terraced and semi-detached interwar homes arranged in coherent street clusters (see Map D), creates strong potential for coordinated, place-based retrofit programmes that can reduce costs, build delivery confidence and generate replicable models both locally and for similar estates across Bristol and beyond. Combined with local householder and resident insight²⁸ and wider housing data, this provides a strong foundation for neigh-

bourhood-scale investment and a clearer understanding of where early delivery opportunities are likely to be most effective.

At the same time, differences between local housing typologies mean investment can be targeted more precisely, with further detail on a subset of key Southmead typologies provided in subsequent sections. Bringing together data, local knowledge and detailed property assessment will also help ensure investment reaches those most in need while improving delivery outcomes, supporting affordability and contributing to a fair and inclusive transition.

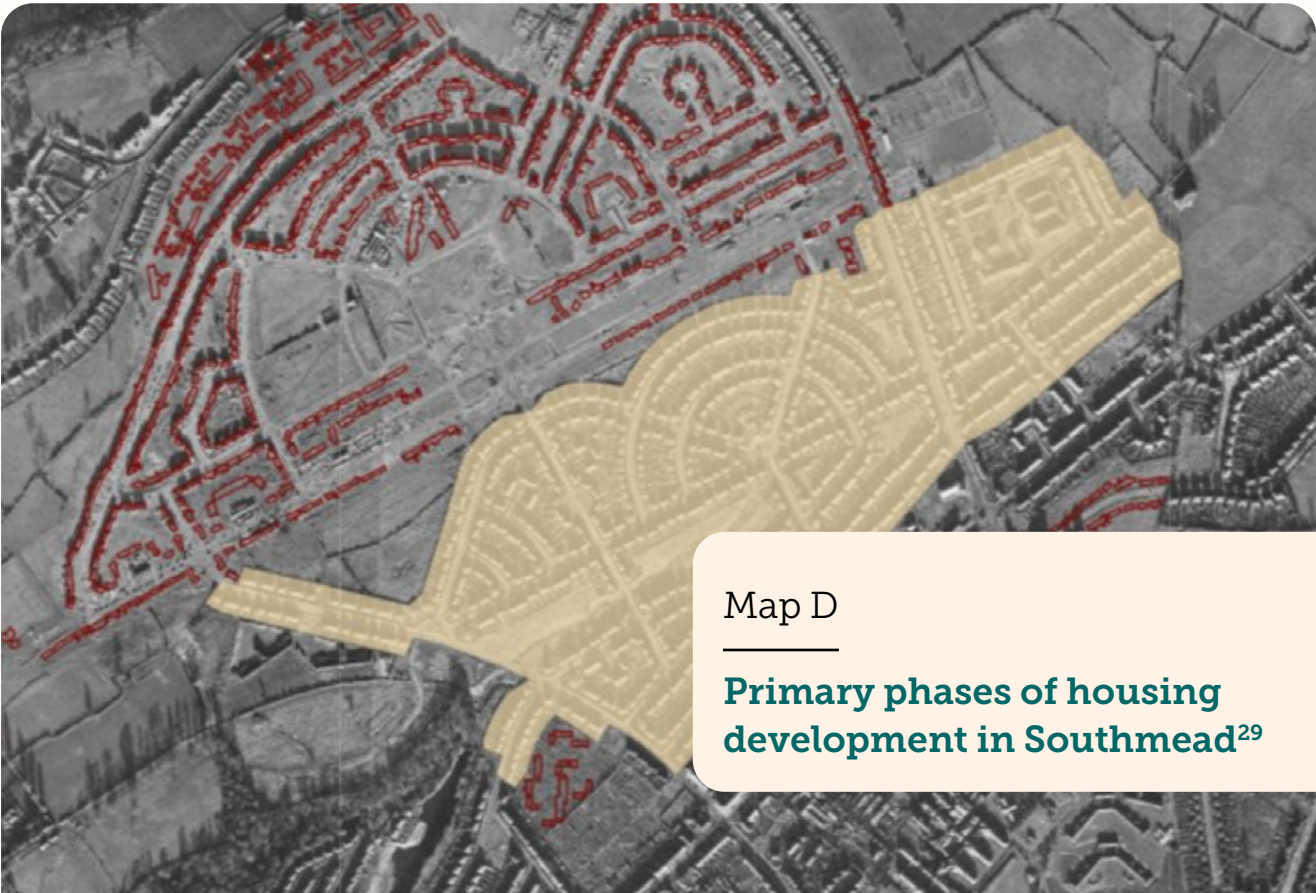


Chart B

Age of property in Southmead ³⁰

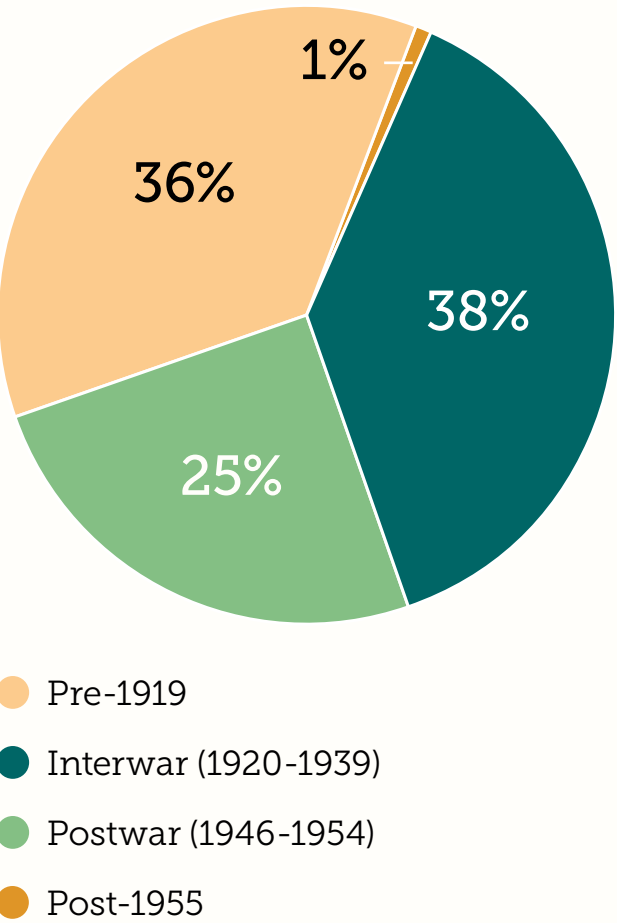
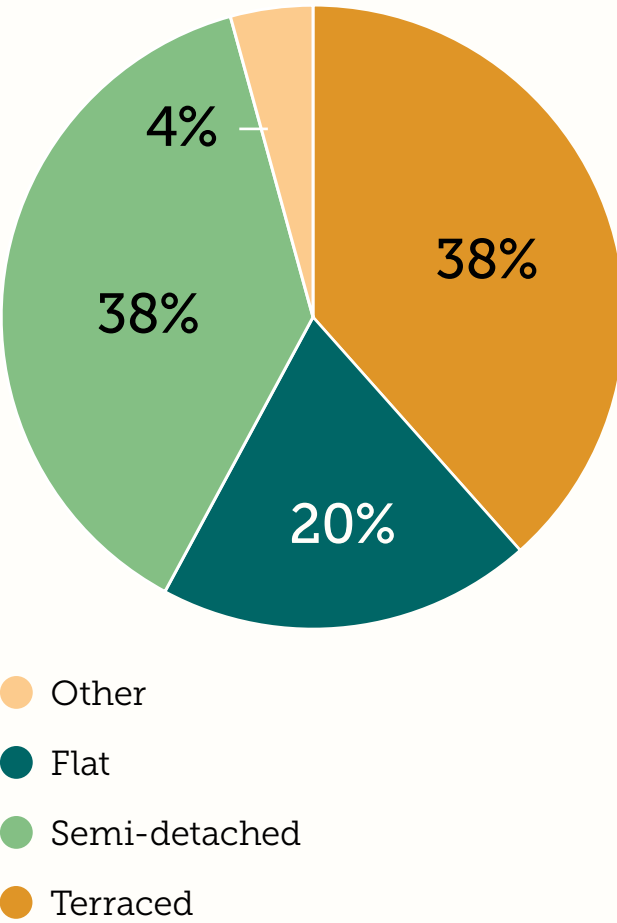


Chart C

Property type in Southmead³⁰





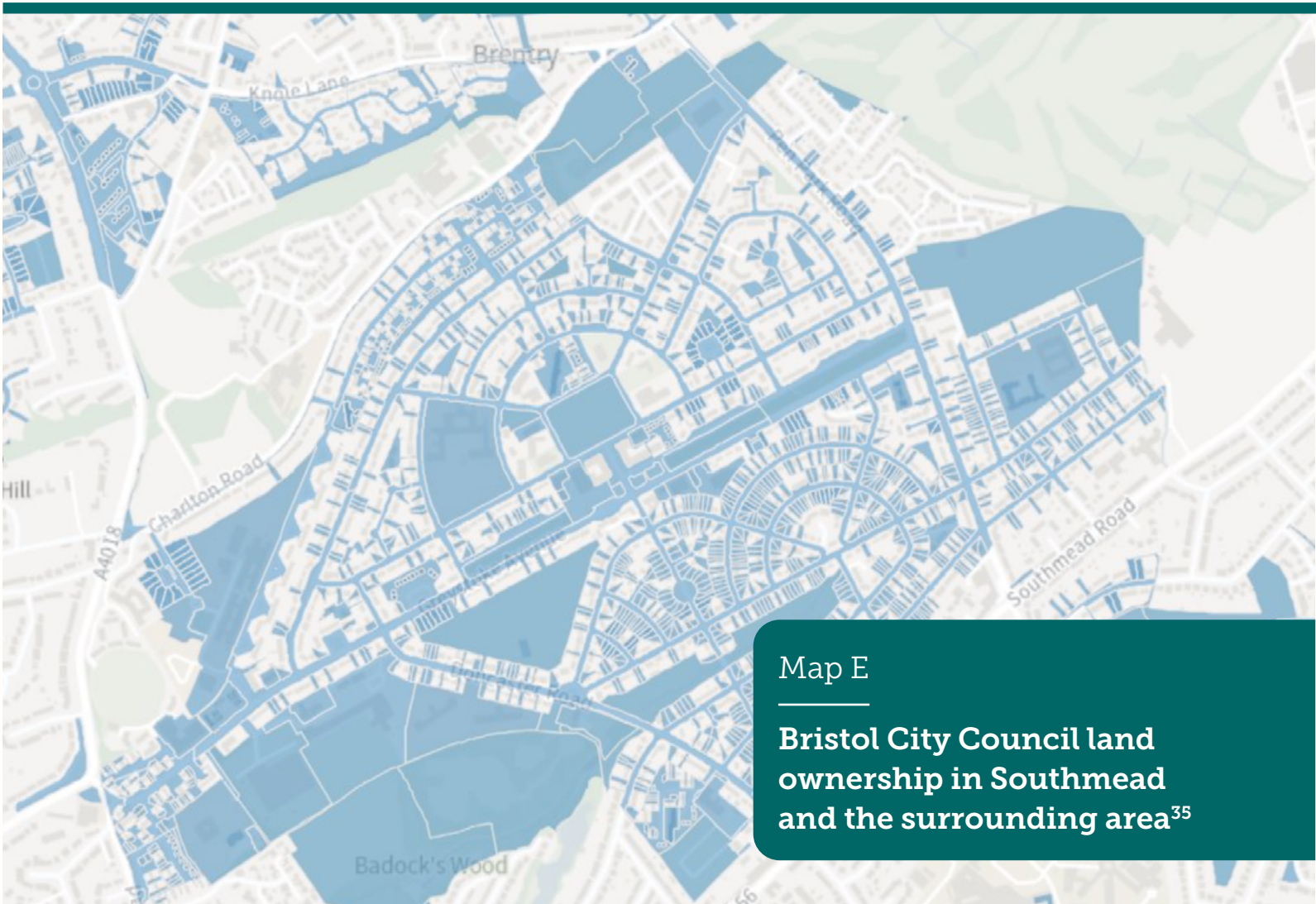
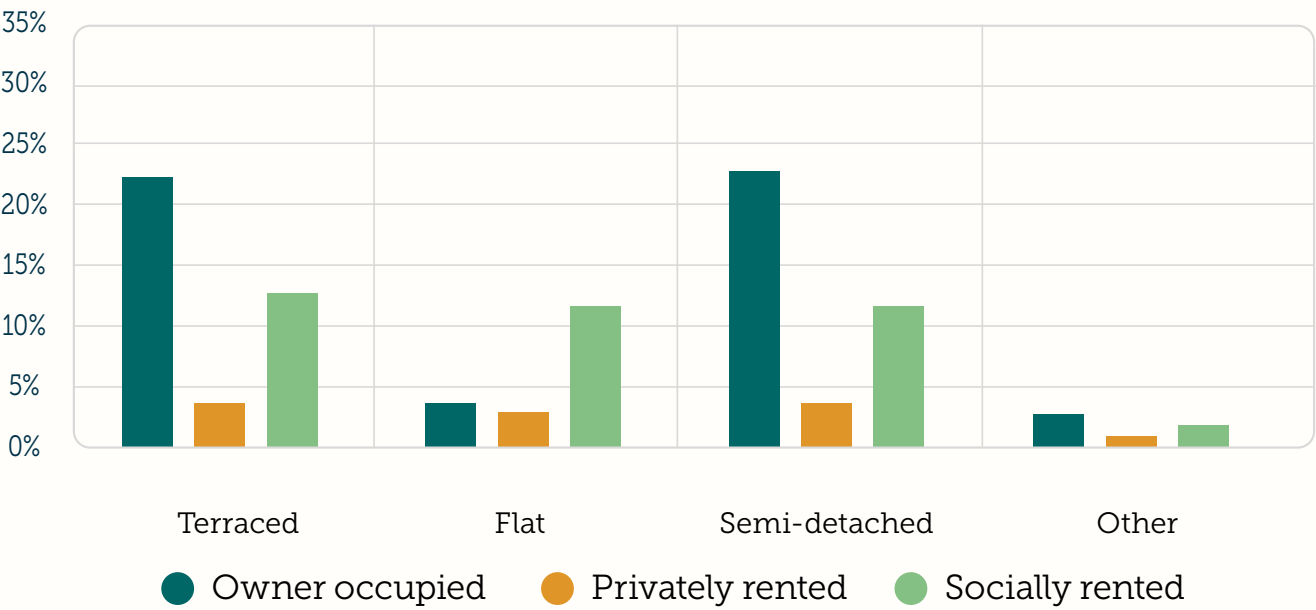
Across Southmead, 38% of homes are socially rented, double the Bristol average. There is also a slightly lower proportion of owner-occupied homes in the neighbourhood than the Bristol average, at around 50% compared with 55% citywide.³¹ Flats in the neighbourhood are predominantly socially rented, meaning many households depend on landlords or housing providers to enable energy improvements. Combined with the neighbourhoods relatively consistent housing typologies, this tenure profile creates strong potential for coordinated, neighbourhood-scale retrofit that can improve comfort, affordability and health outcomes while reducing emissions.

Bristol City Council is a major landowner locally and has published a Housing Heat Decarbonisation Strategy to guide upgrades across its housing stock.³² The distribution and scale of social housing in Southmead brings key access to funding and finance, delivery expertise, established supply chains and the ability to achieve efficiencies through aggregation, helping to reduce costs, improve delivery confidence and create replicable retrofit models for similar neighbourhoods (see Chart D). Investment delivered in partnership with social landlords and trusted local organisations can therefore provide a strong foundation for wider place-based climate action in the neighbourhood.

While the proportion of private renters is lower than the Bristol average (around 12% compared with 26%),³³ this group still requires targeted support. Split incentives between landlords and tenants, combined with wider affordability pressures, can slow retrofit uptake even where there is interest, highlighting the need for engagement approaches, financing options and delivery models that work across all tenures to ensure a fair and inclusive transition.

Chart D

Tenure by property type in Southmead³⁴



Typology in focus: interwar housing

Interwar housing accounts for around 38% of homes in Southmead, making it the largest single housing typology in the neighbourhood³⁶ Typically arranged as semi-detached pairs or short terraces, these homes were built rapidly to address housing shortages and now form coherent street clusters across the area. They are generally among the smaller homes locally (around 73m² compared with 78m² across the ward)³⁶ and many either retain limited original insulation or none at all, contributing to higher energy costs and comfort challenges for residents.

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) data provides a useful starting point for understanding retrofit opportunities for this property type, with indicative recommendations suggesting significant potential for floor insulation (around 70% of homes), alongside cavity wall insulation (11%).³⁶ However, EPC data does not fully reflect property condition, occupancy patterns or resident priorities, so detailed local surveys,

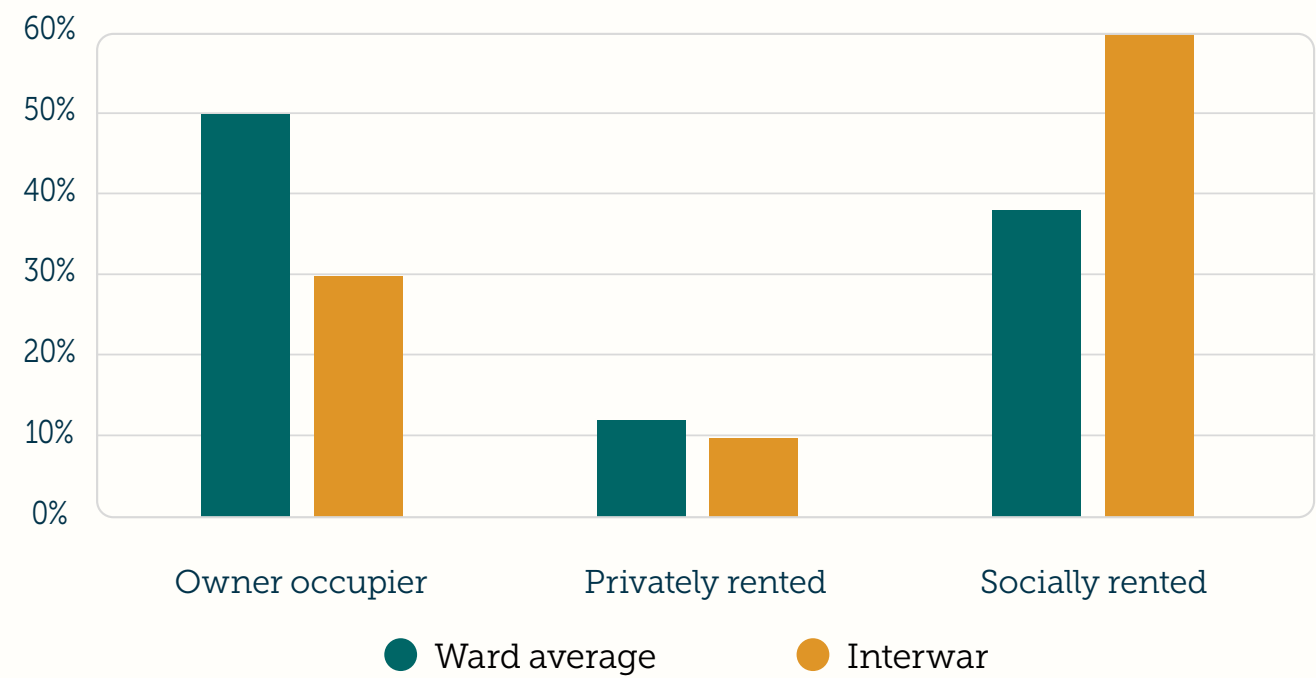
engagement and technical assessment should be a key element of any investment programme.

The scale and concentration of interwar housing, particularly on long, coherent streets such as Ashburton Road, Ringwood Crescent and Stanton Road, make it well suited to area-based programmes that combine fabric upgrades with overheating mitigation and ventilation improvements. Given the smaller average floor area and limited existing insulation, whole-house approaches are likely to be more effective than piecemeal measures.

A relatively high proportion of social rented homes within this typology³⁶ strengthens the case for landlord-led, aggregated retrofit. Working with housing providers alongside residents can accelerate delivery at scale, reduce costs and create early visible momentum for neighbourhood retrofit, while ensuring benefits such as warmer homes and lower bills are shared across households facing affordability pressures.

Chart E

Tenure comparison: ward average vs interwar housing³⁷



Typology in focus: traditional and non-traditional construction (1945-1954)

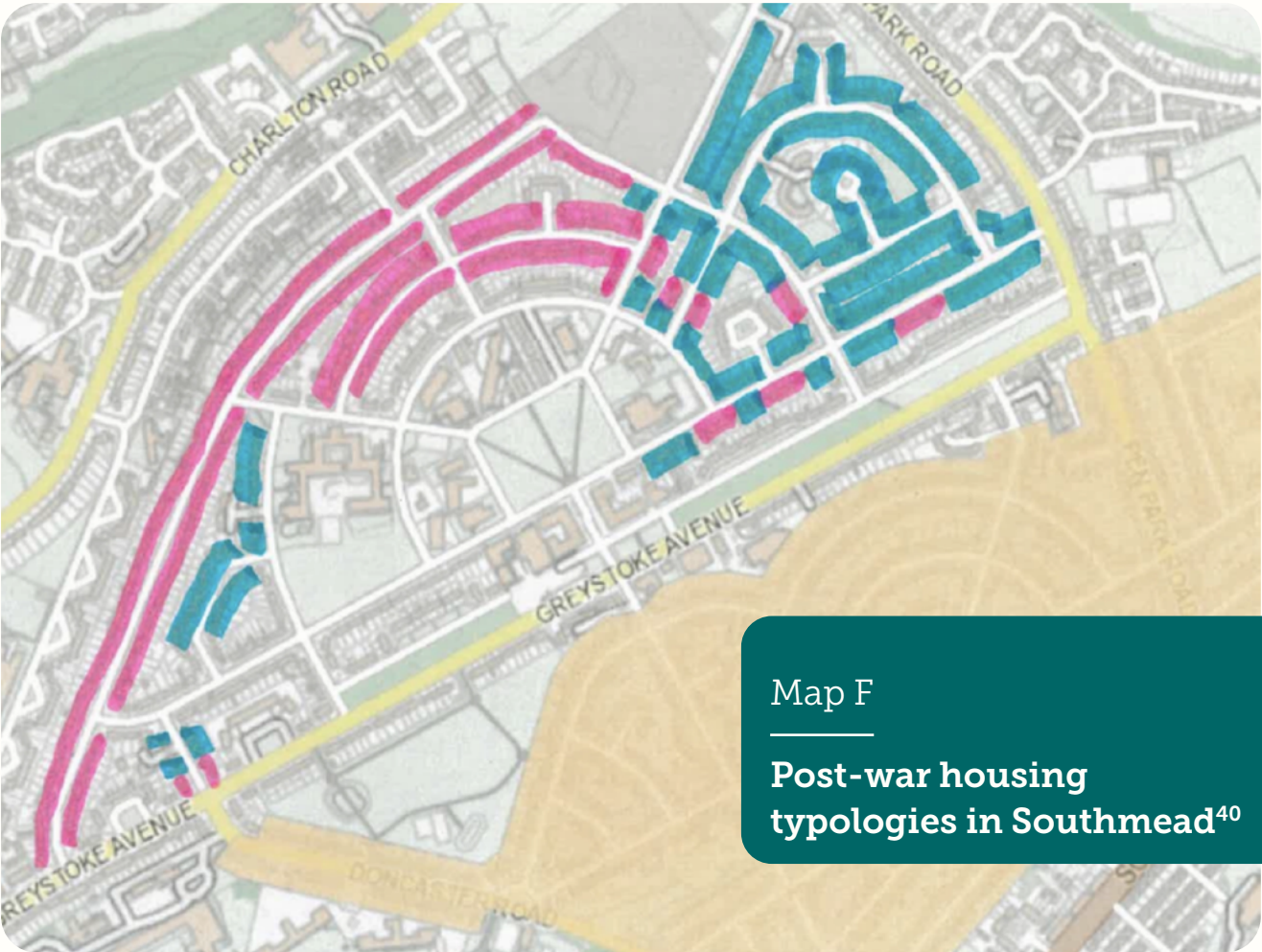
Post-war housing accounts for around 25% of homes in Southmead³⁸ and can be categorised into two distinct sub-typologies:

- non-traditional post-war housing such as the Laing Easiform archetype (indicated in blue in Map F)
- traditional post-war brick housing (indicated in pink in Map F).³⁹

These homes are typically clustered in defined areas of the neighbourhood, creating opportunities for coordinated, scalable approaches to retrofit and energy improvements.

While construction types vary, both typologies present opportunities for climate action alongside specific technical and delivery considerations. Their scale, repetition and tenure mix mean that working with social landlords, homeowners and community organisations together can help reduce costs, improve quality assurance and build visible momentum for retrofit across the neighbourhood.

Further detail on each typology and the specific retrofit implications is provided in the following sections.



Typologies in focus: traditional post-war brick housing

Traditional post-war brick homes in Southmead are on average 23% larger than interwar homes, at 90m², and tend to have the highest average heating costs locally, reflecting varying insulation levels and ageing building fabric.⁴¹

EPC data suggests common retrofit priorities including floor insulation (recommended for around 65% of homes), cavity wall insulation (11%) and loft insulation (7%)⁴¹. As with all EPC-derived insights, this should be treated as indicative rather than definitive, with locally specific surveys, resident engagement and technical feasibility work needed to guide investment. For example, work undertaken through Transforming Energy Together indicates that properly installed loft insulation, ventilation upgrades, repair and maintenance would benefit most homes in this typology, whilst in some cases reviewing or removing poorly performing cavity wall insulation may have a substantial

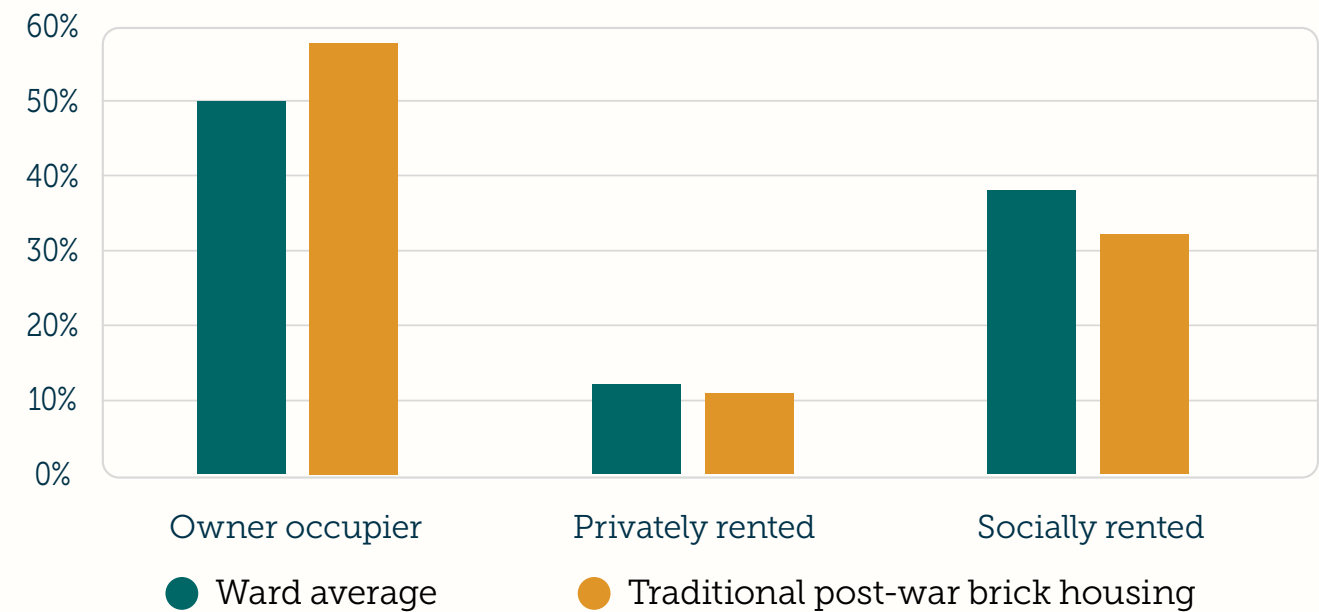
impact on the damp and cold conditions experienced by householders.⁴²

The repetition of these house types and street layouts, as seen on Ambleside Avenue and Staveley Crescent, creates clear opportunities for coordinated, street-scale retrofit programmes in the neighbourhood, and delivering improvements collectively can reduce costs, manage disruption more effectively and improve quality assurance, while helping ensure consistent outcomes for residents.

With a relatively high proportion of owner-occupied homes,⁴¹ this typology offers good potential for household-led retrofit where residents have access to trusted advice, finance and protections. When combined with fabric improvements, this can make low-carbon heating options such as heat pumps more practical, helping improve comfort, manage energy costs and build long-term resilience.

Chart F

Tenure comparison: ward average vs traditional post-war brick houses⁴³



Typologies in focus: non-traditional post-war housing – the Laing Easiform archetype

Laing Easiform homes form a distinct post-war housing typology within Southmead and examples can be seen on streets including Ennerdale Road, Caldbeck Close and Ravenglass Crescent. Built using non-traditional cast concrete panels, they typically show lower average energy performance locally, with an average EPC rating score of around 63.8, almost 10% lower than the ward average of 66.7⁴⁴

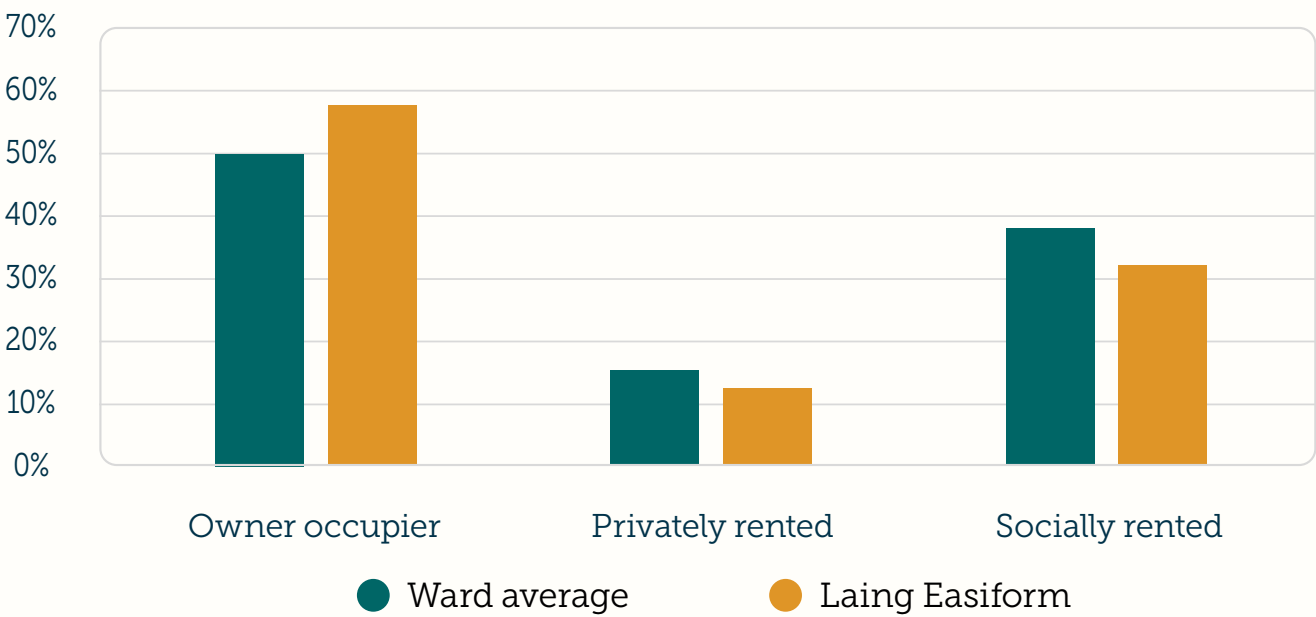
While EPC data often highlights fabric measures such as floor insulation (recommended for around 81% of homes),⁴⁴ standard EPC assumptions do not always capture the complexity of upgrading non-traditional construction. This means EPCs are best viewed as an initial screening tool, with detailed technical surveys and locally grounded engagement critical before investment decisions are made.

Non-traditional constructions such as Laing Easiform often require a more technically informed retrofit pathway, with careful sequencing of fabric upgrades to avoid unintended consequences. Experience from the Value Optimised Retrofit (VOR) Easiform project,⁴⁵ which applied PAS 2035 standards to this construction type,⁴⁶ demonstrates that coordinated estate-scale retrofit can deliver measurable improvements in comfort, health and energy performance alongside carbon reduction.

Because many of these homes are owner-occupied and technically complex to upgrade, coordinated approaches that provide specialist surveys, clear design guidance and shared procurement can reduce risk and improve outcomes. This creates a strong opportunity for place-based programmes that combine technical expertise with trusted local engagement.

Chart G

Tenure comparison: ward average vs Laing Easiform⁴⁷



Example Laing Easiform properties in Southmead

Innovative approaches: Glencoyne Square

Southmead Development Trust is leading the community-led housing development at Glencoyne Square, a major neighbourhood regeneration scheme that is already well advanced in planning and partnership development. The project will deliver affordable, community-focused homes alongside new community facilities, green space and opportunities for local economic activity. Developed through sustained resident engagement over several years, it represents one of the UK’s largest community-led housing initiatives and demonstrates strong local capacity to shape and deliver neighbourhood investment.

Energy efficiency and low-carbon living are being embedded from the outset, including well-insulated homes, electrified heating and on-site renewable energy such as rooftop solar. This reflects the wider shift toward warm, energy-efficient homes powered by clean electricity, helping reduce energy costs for residents while supporting national decarbonisation priorities and local wellbeing outcomes.

More broadly, the project illustrates how climate, housing and community infrastructure investment can be brought together through locally trusted delivery partners. It highlights the potential for neighbourhood-based organisations to translate investment into practical outcomes on the ground — building confidence, strengthening local capability and helping ensure the benefits of transition are retained within the community.⁴⁸



Glencoyne Square visualisation⁴⁹



2.3 Local energy generation

As an urban neighbourhood, there is limited space available for purpose built, standalone energy sites in Southmead. With a large number of homes and non-domestic properties in the area, the strongest investible opportunities for local energy generation come from using existing buildings and infrastructure. While local energy generation is still developing in the neighbourhood, there is significant potential to expand clean energy infrastructure over time and shape a long-term, neighbourhood-led delivery model. Existing infrastructure is highlighted in Table A.⁵⁰

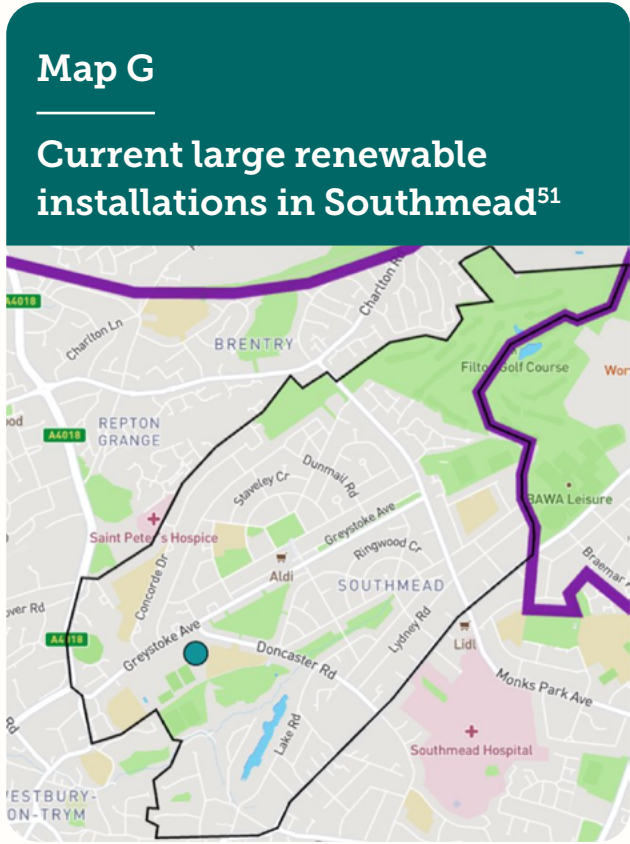


Table A
Current scale of deployment of energy generation infrastructure across homes and non-domestic buildings in Southmead⁵²

Category	Current deployment
Homes (domestic)	Local EPC data indicates that approximately 0.89% of homes have solar panels. This is slightly higher than Bristol as a whole (0.67%), however both values are low, highlighting substantial scope to grow rooftop solar across the neighbourhood. ⁵³
Community, commercial and other buildings (non-domestic)	There is currently only one large scale solar installation in the neighbourhood, a 120Kw system at the Greenway Centre, indicated by the green dot in Map G. In addition, all three primary schools in Southmead have rooftop solar PV systems, ⁵⁴ providing visible local examples of renewable energy in practice.

Solar Power

Analysis using CSE’s Solar Wizard tool suggests a significant proportion of homes in Southmead have strong potential for rooftop solar, with around three quarters of domestic properties (approximately 4,100 homes) estimated to be suitable. This represents a substantial opportunity to expand local renewable generation using existing buildings across the neighbourhood.⁵⁵

A typical domestic solar installation is estimated to cost around £8,000,⁵⁶ with payback commonly within around eight years depending on tariffs and usage. Combined with battery storage, solar can reduce energy bills, cut emissions and improve resilience to rising costs, particularly where funding support is available.

The opportunity also extends beyond homes. Community facilities, schools and commercial premises offer strong potential, with up to 85% of the area’s 470 non-domestic buildings estimated to be suitable for solar. Alongside cost savings and carbon reduction, community buildings can act as demonstrators for wider uptake while offering approximately 3,600m² of usable roof space with an estimated solar yield of around 640 MWh per year.⁵⁷

At neighbourhood scale, coordinated solar deployment linked with storage, smart energy management and shared delivery models could strengthen local energy resilience and maximise use of locally generated electricity. Overall potential generation could reach around 20 GWh annually, exceeding local domestic demand and supporting wider city energy needs.⁵⁸

Key systemic challenges that will need to be navigated to stimulate uptake in Southmead, as well as potential delivery approaches to address them, are summarised in Table B.

Table B

Systemic challenges preventing solar uptake⁵⁹

Challenge	What this means locally	Potential solutions
Tenure and leases	Around half of homes are rented, ⁶⁰ and many non-domestic buildings are leased. This can limit residents’ or occupiers’ ability to install solar independently and slows uptake where landlord coordination is required.	• Explore policy and funding mechanisms to extend solar grants beyond owner-occupiers. • Provide tailored guidance for businesses and community organisations operating from leased buildings. • Work with social housing providers to install solar on rented homes, ensuring bill savings reach tenants while maintaining tenancy security.
Upfront cost and financial confidence	The upfront cost of solar remains a significant barrier for low-income households, small businesses and community organisations. Resident engagement indicates that alongside technical suitability, clear information on costs, savings and payback is critical to supporting wider uptake. Uncertainty around export tariffs and the perceived fairness of financial returns from solar generation can also affect confidence in investing.	• Reduce costs through aggregation, bulk purchasing, community energy or cooperative delivery models. • Improve signposting to existing grants and support schemes, including ECO, Retrofit West and Solar Together. • Develop a simple, accessible directory of funding and finance options across income levels, including low-interest loans, group-buying schemes and community finance approaches. • Provide clear, trusted information on tariffs, export payments, battery storage options and long-term savings to support informed investment decisions.
Grid connectivity	Increasing local solar generation places additional pressure on the electricity network, requiring early coordination to avoid delays or capacity constraints for larger installations.	• Encourage early engagement with National Grid Electricity Distribution for larger or shared projects. • Raise awareness amongst householders that smaller installations do not require prior grid connection approval. • Communicate the role of local demand, storage and flexibility in enabling further solar deployment.

2.4
Heating

The heating fuel used by homes in the neighbourhood is predominantly mains gas, with 92% of homes powered by gas boilers. Electric heating is the second most common heating fuel, with 7% of homes heated by room and storage heaters. There are no communal heating systems within in the neighbourhood and air source heat pumps (ASHPs) account for just 1% of homes, with 75 installed. Other heating systems are negligible.⁶¹

The total estimated annual heating spend in the neighbourhood is approximately £4 million, indicating that a 1% heating bill reduction across the neighbourhood could result in a combined £40,000 a year of savings.⁶¹ On average, householders in interwar properties pay the least for their heating, whilst those in Laing Easiform homes pay the most.

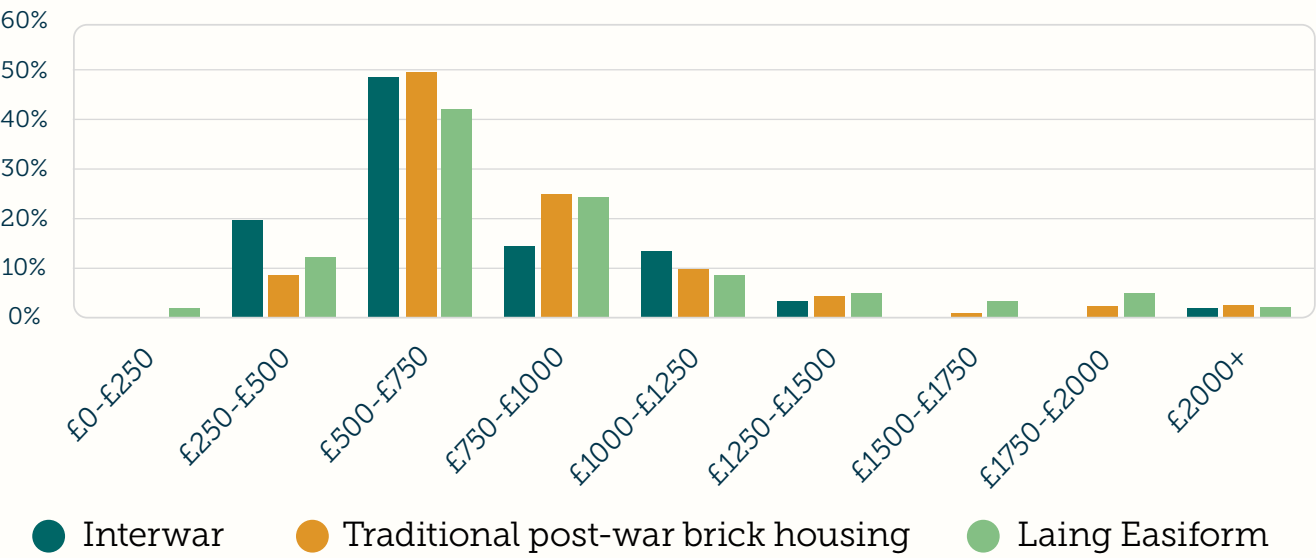
A shift away from gas towards electric heating could offer multiple local benefits, including lower carbon emissions, cleaner air, and reduced energy bills. With the cost of gas directly linked to global energy markets, widespread gas dependency also creates high vulnerability to fuel price shocks, as demonstrated during the 2021–2023 energy crisis, when households across the UK faced sudden, unaffordable price increases, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable in society.⁶²

While moving away from carbon-intensive gas heating is essential, households must not be left worse off through higher bills or complex installation processes. Because electricity currently costs more per unit than gas,⁶³ switching to technologies such as heat pumps without adequate energy efficiency improvements, or the ability to disconnect from the gas network and avoid standing charges, could result in higher overall costs. A mix of tailored heat solutions will therefore be needed across the neighbourhood, reflecting different housing types and local opportunities. Two key solutions to be explored are ASHPs and shared and district heating.

Chart H
Primary heating systems in homes in Southmead⁶⁴



Chart I
Annual cost of space and hot water heating for example typologies⁶⁴



Air source heat pumps

Heat pumps are a core part of delivering warm, low-carbon homes. With coordinated retrofit, clear communication, trusted local advice and the right mix of finance they represent a major opportunity for Southmead.

ASHPs are a well-established technology and work by converting heat in the outside air to provide low-carbon space heating and hot water for the home, typically through a radiator system and a hot water cylinder. Powered by electricity they are typically 3-4 times more efficient than gas boilers and can substantially reduce household carbon emissions and bills, particularly when homes are well insulated and systems are properly designed.⁶⁵ Integrating heat pumps with building fabric improvements can help ensure homes are “heat-pump ready”, improving comfort, performance and long-term value.

Installation costs are typically between £10,000 and £20,000, varying by property type and the

upgrades needed to make homes heat-pump ready.⁶⁶ In practice, these costs can be addressed through a mix of grants and low-interest finance (for example the government’s Boiler Upgrade Scheme gives any household £7,500 towards the cost of installation and the Warm Home Plan has announced a loan fund will soon be available), alongside neighbourhood-scale delivery, proactive supply chain engagement and trusted local advice that help reduce risk, improve quality and build confidence.

Uptake of ASHPs in Southmead is still developing, with most installations currently in sheltered accommodation, council-owned properties on Bradwell Grove, Omari Wright Way and Twenty Acres Road.⁶⁷ This reflects a wider national trend and highlights a significant opportunity to expand delivery through coordinated neighbourhood retrofit, clear communication, trusted advice, strong installer capacity and targeted investment.

Shared and district heat networks

Current analysis suggests Southmead does not yet have the concentration of large heat users or commercial activity needed to support a standalone district heat network within the neighbourhood.⁶⁸ However, future opportunities may emerge through links to nearby growth areas and major energy users, particularly as local and national decarbonisation strategies increasingly promote coordinated approaches to low-carbon heating alongside housing retrofit and wider energy system improvements.⁶⁹

While individual air-source heat pumps are likely to play an important role locally, shared or district heat solutions could still offer cost-effective options in areas where new development, higher housing density or large buildings create suitable conditions. This aligns with wider strategic priorities, including Bristol City Council’s Heat Decarbonisation Strategy⁷⁰ and regional energy planning work, which emphasise affordable, resilient low-carbon heating delivered at scale.



Key opportunities for future exploration could include:

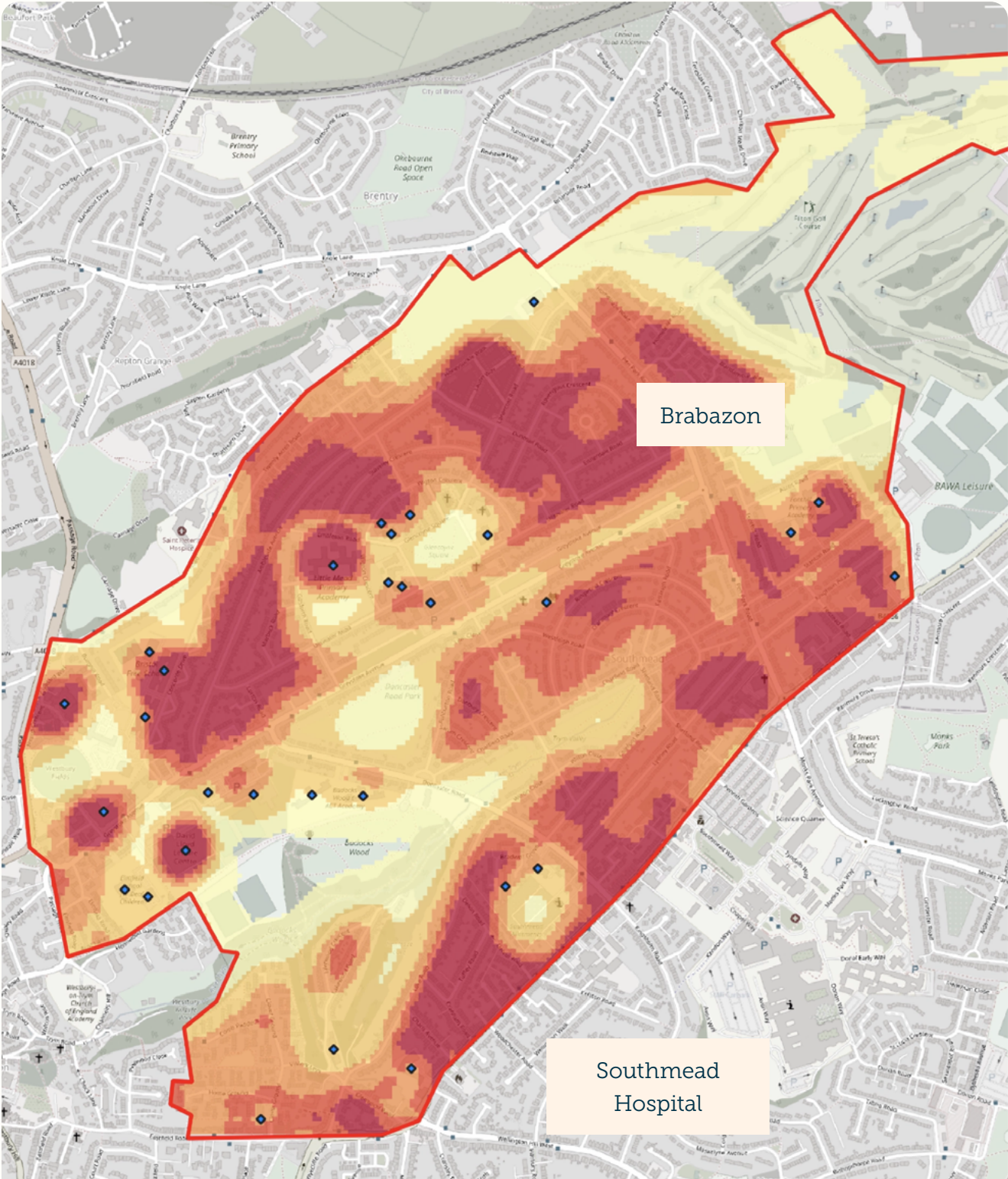
Brabazon development

Located immediately north of Southmead, this major mixed-use development is expected to deliver around 6,500 homes alongside significant commercial space. Planning work across the West of England highlights the value of coordinated low-carbon heat infrastructure in developments of this scale. While no specific proposals are currently confirmed, the size and proximity of the scheme create potential for future shared or connected energy infrastructure, subject to feasibility and collaboration across boundaries.⁷¹

Southmead Hospital

Southmead Hospital is a major local energy user with continuous heating demand. As part of a health system working toward net-zero emissions, future investment in estate decarbonisation may create opportunities to explore low-carbon heat solutions that could extend beyond the hospital itself, particularly in nearby areas with higher housing density.⁷²

Taken together, these opportunities suggest that although district heat is unlikely to be an immediate priority within Southmead itself, strategic partnerships and coordinated planning could enable viable low-carbon heat infrastructure over time. This would support wider goals around affordability, energy resilience and long-term climate action while aligning local investment with city, regional and national priorities.



Map H
Indicative heat demand density in Southmead identified using THERMOS, a heat network modelling tool developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Moving forwards – heat

Heat electrification is achievable in Southmead but will require coordinated delivery, trusted advice and investment models that work for residents. Both heat pumps and shared heat solutions have a role, supported by fabric improvements, accessible finance and alignment with wider housing, infrastructure and development plans. Key challenges and potential solutions are summarised in Table C.

Table C

Systemic challenges preventing uptake of low carbon heating in the neighbourhood⁷³

Heating option	Systemic challenges and what it means locally		Potential solutions
Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs)	Many homes need insulation and fabric improvements before heat pumps perform effectively, affecting comfort, cost and carbon savings.		Deliver high-quality, well-designed, heat pump installations as part of retrofit, ensuring homes are heat-pump ready first and works are supported by clear, trusted local advice to maximise efficient usage.
	High upfront costs, installation disruption and limited confidence or awareness — particularly among lower-income households — continue to slow uptake.		Reduce cost and risk through grants, low-interest finance and neighbourhood-scale delivery models that provide trusted installers, quality assurance and accessible support.
Shared and district heat network options	Lower housing density, older building stock and multiple stakeholders increase infrastructure costs and complexity compared with higher-density areas.		Explore smaller-scale or phased heat networks where density, anchor buildings or new development create viable opportunities.
	Without large, stable heat users, standalone schemes may struggle to achieve financial viability.		Work with major heat users such as Southmead Hospital, schools, community buildings and nearby developments including Brabazon to support future shared infrastructure.
	Heating investments risk being delivered in isolation without alignment to wider infrastructure planning, major developments or anchor institutions.		Align local heating plans with citywide and regional energy strategies, housing retrofit programmes and future growth areas to enable flexible expansion over time.

2.5

Climate and community action

Southmead has a strong foundation of community organisations, trusted spaces and resident-led networks that already play an active role in improving wellbeing, supporting inclusion and responding to local challenges. These assets are socially valuable and provide critical infrastructure for delivering neighbourhood-scale climate action.

Residents are proud of the area and actively use local community buildings, particularly the Greenway Centre, where self-organised activities, from creative groups and repair initiatives to disability justice work, build connection, confidence and collective capacity. These spaces help develop the relationships, trust and local leadership needed to support participation in climate initiatives.⁷⁴

Alongside this everyday community life, Southmead hosts a number of active resident groups, including Team Southmead and Inclusion Southmead. These groups help shape local projects, improve accessibility across the neighbourhood and demonstrate strong experience in resident-led problem solving. This existing leadership provides a strong platform for engagement, co-design and delivery of climate programmes.⁷⁴

At the heart of this infrastructure is Southmead Development Trust, a locally rooted organisation founded to protect the Greenway Centre for community use. The Trust now acts as a collaboration hub for health, wellbeing, youth support and community development services, providing a trusted and accessible base for engagement and delivery.

The Trust also manages The Ranch Adventure Playground and youth space, a long-standing and well-loved community asset⁷⁴ Young people up to the age of 16 can access free, open sessions throughout the week, with many residents having grown up through The Ranch and continuing to access services at the Greenway Centre as adults. This longevity has helped build deep trust, strong intergenerational connections and a shared sense of ownership – key conditions for sustained engagement in neighbourhood change.

“It made me feel more involved and welcome in the community... this celebration helped us come together and forget our worries for a moment.”

Swiba, Southmead resident⁷⁵



Community activity in the summer in Southmead



Lunch club at the Greenway centre

Alongside Southmead Development Trust, a wider ecosystem of community and faith-based organisations including St Stephen’s Church, Shaparan Islamic Centre and the Southmead Community Association, provides vital local support networks. These organisations already work on issues closely linked to climate action, including fuel poverty, housing conditions, health inequalities and improving access to services. Because they are trusted locally and embedded in everyday life, these organisations are often best placed to:

- Engage residents who may not respond to traditional consultation
- Build confidence around new technologies or changes
- Identify practical barriers early
- Support sustained participation rather than one-off engagement.

This local knowledge, trust and lived experience significantly increase the likelihood that climate investments translate into real uptake, lasting behaviour change and equitable outcomes.⁷⁶

Evidence from the Roots of Resilience: Saving Community Spaces initiative, a Bristol-based campaign led by Eastside Community Trust and

involving anchor organisations from across the city to explore the role and long-term sustainability of community spaces, highlights how these locally embedded organisations provide essential social infrastructure but often face insecure funding, limited staff capacity and constrained budgets, with an overreliance on volunteers. This underlines the need for sustained investment in community capabilities including staffing, coordination, training and infrastructure to enable these organisations to play their full role in climate delivery at scale.⁷⁷

Recognising and strengthening this community infrastructure is therefore central to effective neighbourhood climate action in Southmead. Investment in community organisations as part of wider retrofit and energy programmes can help ensure projects are:

- Trusted and accessible
- Grounded in lived experience
- Better coordinated locally
- More likely to deliver sustained impact

Done well, this approach can offer improved delivery outcomes alongside wider social value, strengthened community resilience and supports a fair transition to net zero.



Map I
Key community owned and operated buildings in Southmead⁷⁸



3. From priorities to projects: the Community Climate Investment Plan

With £100 billion of planned investment in new energy sources over the next decade and the UK retrofit market estimated to reach £360 billion by 2050, place-based decarbonisation represents a major investment opportunity.⁷⁹ However, attracting investment and ensuring communities can access and benefit from it remains a challenge, requiring new approaches to unlock these opportunities.

Evidence from other sectors shows that aligning investment with local knowledge, needs, and priorities reduces delivery risk, builds trust, and delivers more inclusive, sustainable outcomes.

Community Climate Investment Planning provides a solution: by working with communities as trusted partners, identifying opportunities, and clarifying the expectations of planners, investors, and policymakers, it translates local ambition into actionable, high-impact projects.

In practice, this approach helps make climate investment faster by building demand, better by capitalising on local knowledge to improve outcomes, and fairer by embedding a just transition from the outset.



3.1

Making climate action fairer by supporting a Just Transition

Delivering climate action at scale requires approaches that build trust, reflect local knowledge, and ensure communities can access and benefit from investment. Alongside making delivery faster and better, a core principle of Community Climate Investment Planning is making it fairer by supporting a just transition.

Climate impacts are felt most acutely by low-income and marginalised communities, yet these groups often have the least access to resources and decision-making power. Embedding community perspectives in climate investment helps ensure action addresses inequality and supports those most at risk. This is particularly relevant in Bristol, where in 2024 activists from disadvantaged communities across the city developed ten principles for a Just Transition, setting out how the shift to net zero must be fair and inclusive. This work has been championed through citywide collaboration, including the Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership, and has since been endorsed by organisations across the city, including Bristol City Council, committing to sustained engagement and capacity-building.⁸⁰

This underscores the need for investment models that protect affordability, reduce inequality, and ensure the transition to net zero delivers shared and lasting benefits for residents. With 41% of households in Southmead having at least one person suffering from limiting, long-term health conditions, and a shifting population with 16% of residents speaking English as an additional language,⁸¹ inclusive approaches are essential. Community organisations such as Southmead Development Trust bring key expertise and insight into local barriers, helping tailor initiatives so all residents can take part.

Just Transition Declaration



What it means: investment in practice

Investors can support a just transition by investing in ways that keep benefits in the community, make it easier for people to take part, and avoid causing harm.

This means:

- Designing funding to protect affordability and prevent displacement, ensuring people can take part regardless of tenure, income, health or household circumstances.
- Developing investment models that prioritise long-term community ownership, stewardship and shared benefit, rather than one-way or extractive delivery where value flows out of the neighbourhood.
- Making sure funding covers the real, everyday costs of involving people such as translation, support from trusted local groups, accessible activities, and staying in touch over time - not just the physical work.
- Paying community members for their time, knowledge and lived experience, recognising this as essential to a fair transition and as an investment in community skills, confidence and long-term benefit, not just buildings or technology.

Further detail on how funding and investment can enable work towards a just transition can be found in Appendix B: A Charter for Community Investment.

3.2

Priorities to projects: building a local pipeline

This section sets out how local priorities in Southmead have been shaped into a clear pipeline of investable opportunities, capable of attracting delivery partners, funding and long-term support.

To support this shift from priorities to projects, a small number of shared tools and frameworks, co-designed with Transforming Energy Together partners,⁸² have been applied to bring greater clarity to potential opportunities, their readiness, and the support required to move them forward.

These tools help articulate projects in ways that are meaningful to local communities and transparent to funders, investors and delivery organisations. They include:

- **An Outcomes Matrix** to capture the wider social, economic and environmental value of community climate action (3.2.1)
- **A Project Maturity Assessment Tool** to assess readiness for investment and identify any gaps that need to be addressed to enable delivery (3.2.2)

The resulting pipeline in Section 4 spans a range of themes and stages of readiness, showing how projects can progress from early opportunity to delivery over time.

Articulating the wider benefits of climate action

Effectively communicating the wider benefits of climate action is key to building support amongst communities, energy planners, and investors. This support can help secure funding, establish partnerships, and engage local stakeholders, creating momentum for lasting change.⁸³

Eight key outcome areas relevant to a broad range of stakeholders have been identified to capture the full value of community-led climate action. An outcomes matrix was used to guide the selection of projects that both meet local needs and provide clear pathways for delivery to planners and investors.

For each project in this plan, the outcomes it contributes to are highlighted, demonstrating the full value of the initiative - not just in terms of carbon reduction or financial return, but also in enabling community action, addressing local priorities, and delivering broader social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Chart J

Eight outcomes of climate action⁸⁴

	Communities able to take action	Outcomes that give communities the tools they need to solve problems both now and in the future, be that via new knowledge and relationships or access to information and data.
	Direct carbon reduction	Outcomes that reduce carbon.
	Targeted action	Outcomes that improve the efficiency of projects, reduce risk and maximise success.
	A financial return	Outcomes that generate income for investors, residents or community organisations.
	Healthier communities	Outcomes that contribute to better health outcomes for communities by improving wellbeing improving wellbeing and housing conditions.
	More money in pockets	Outcomes that result in communities having more money than they did before by reducing bills or providing opportunities to generate income.
	Resilient places	Outcomes that support adaptation to a changing climate and protect local assets.
	Stronger supply chain	Outcomes that build local skills and support regional supply chain development.



Characterising investment readiness

Turning local climate ambitions into action requires projects that are clearly defined and able to meet the expectations of funders and investors.

A project is considered “ready for investment” when the right technical, financial, governance, and community foundations are in place to give funders and investors confidence to invest. These foundations reflect the core areas typically examined through investor due diligence, including delivery capability, governance and risk management, and evidence of demand.⁸⁵

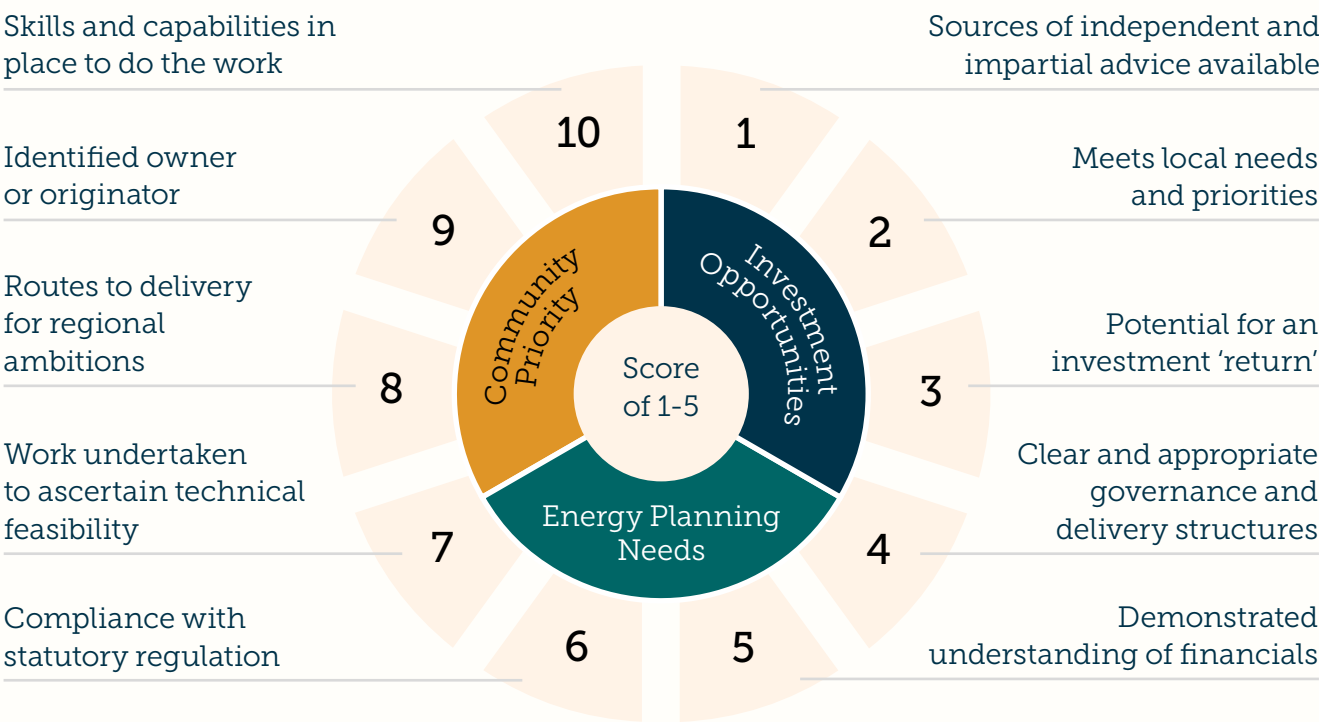
To support the identification and development of suitable projects in this plan, a purpose-built Project Maturity Assessment Tool was developed (see Chart K). This tool examines opportunities using ten criteria across three complementary lenses:

- **The Community Lens**, ensuring projects are rooted in local needs and supported by the people they aim to serve.
- **The Energy Planning Lens**, ensuring alignment with local and regional strategies and delivery pathways.
- **The Investor Lens**, highlighting the information and structures required to assess viability, risk, and potential return.

This holistic assessment helps bridge the gap between early ideas and delivery by identifying strengths, highlighting areas of weakness, and clarifying where and what further development is required.

Chart K

Project Maturity Assessment Tool v1⁸⁶



4. Opportunities for investment

This section outlines a set of clean energy investment opportunities shaped with Southmead Development Trust and community partners through the Transforming Energy Together programme.⁸⁷ Projects are grouped into three priority areas: Homes, Neighbourhood and Skills, reflecting where local organisations identified both urgent need and the greatest potential to contribute to delivery.

Together, these three areas provide a rounded approach to neighbourhood climate action: improving homes to reduce costs and emissions, investing in local infrastructure and community assets, and building the skills and capacity needed to sustain progress over time. Addressing all three in parallel will help ensure that climate investment delivers practical local benefits while supporting long-term, scalable change.

Rather than presenting a single blueprint, these opportunities focus on achievable next steps that demonstrate what community-centred climate investment can look like in practice. Designed for delivery with local organisations, either individually or as part of a coordinated programme, they reflect priorities across all housing tenures, including council, social and privately owned or rented homes, helping ensure investment is fair, visible and responsive to local needs. Together they provide a strong foundation for scalable climate action. As the owner and landlord of a significant proportion of local housing, Bristol City Council has a central role in enabling low-carbon retrofit at scale and will be an important delivery partner in this transition, guided by its published Warm Homes Plan and aligned with the ambitions of this Community Climate Investment Plan.



4.1 Homes

There are approximately 5,500 households in Southmead⁸⁸ and improving the quality, comfort and energy performance of these homes is central to reducing energy costs, improving health and building long-term neighbourhood resilience.

The opportunities outlined in this section provide a practical starting point for improving and decarbonising local homes. These fall broadly into two areas:

- **Strengthening the foundations for equitable home improvement.** These projects focus on targeting support where it is most needed, helping homes become warmer, healthier and more resilient to a changing climate. This includes simple, high-impact measures alongside trusted advice and support that enable residents to engage confidently with new technologies and home improvements.
- **Unlocking finance and enabling wider uptake.** These projects focus on making improvements easier to access by aggregating demand, enabling bulk purchasing, and developing finance and support models that reduce upfront barriers. Coordinated neighbourhood approaches can improve affordability, increase confidence and create stronger conditions for sustained investment and delivery at scale.



Establishing an equitable foundation

The projects in this section focus on simple, low-risk actions that help residents make their homes warmer, healthier and more comfortable, while building confidence to take part in more ambitious retrofit over time.

Designed as early, accessible stepping stones, they respond to immediate needs such as damp, mould, comfort and energy costs, while helping households understand what good retrofit looks like in practice.

These opportunities are intended to support all housing tenures, including the area’s significant social housing stock. Delivered alongside trusted local organisations and in partnership with Bristol City Council, these opportunities can provide clear starting points for residents, landlords, local authorities and investors.

By building capability early, they help create the conditions for more comprehensive, street-scale retrofit that is inclusive, well understood and rooted in local experience.



Adapting to a changing climate

This project focuses on low-cost, practical adaptations that help homes cope with rising temperatures and more extreme weather. A small neighbourhood pilot would support residents to install measures such as blinds and shutters, paired with hands-on support so households can choose options that fit their home and budget. Delivered through trusted local organisations, the project also builds awareness of climate risks while giving residents tangible experience of adaptation measures they can see and feel. These visible, manageable actions help reduce overheating in summer, improve comfort year-round, and reduce heat loss through windows in winter by up to 33%,⁸⁹ while building confidence and ownership that supports progression into wider retrofit and resilience programmes.



Smart and fair local energy systems

This project supports households to better understand and manage their energy use through Smart Energy Action Plans, supported by smart technologies such as smart meters and real-time feedback. The focus is on helping residents make sense of their energy data and translate it into practical, everyday actions.

By building confidence and capability around how energy is used in the home, the project addresses common gaps in understanding that currently limit the benefits households receive from existing systems.

Evidence suggests that improved energy management through simple action planning can reduce household energy bills by around 4% in some cases.⁹⁰ Delivered at neighbourhood scale, Smart Energy Action Plans provide a fair and accessible starting point for households, building energy literacy and confidence while creating clearer pathways into shared energy, flexibility and wider retrofit initiatives.



Making Homes Warm and Healthy

This opportunity area focuses on practical actions that improve comfort and health in homes, especially where damp and mould are affecting everyday life.

It combines two linked sub-projects:

- Damp and mould: supporting households and social housing providers to identify causes (including ventilation and moisture risk) and take practical steps to address them.
- Quick-win upgrades: installing LED lighting and loft insulation, with the potential for substantial household bill savings.⁹¹

The focus is on visible, trusted support that helps residents understand what works, builds confidence, and creates a stronger starting point for deeper retrofit.

Unlocking household finance

For households in Knowle West who are ready and able to take next steps, clear and practical routes are needed to turn growing interest into action. Even where confidence is increasing, uncertainty around cost, disruption and performance can still limit uptake.

The projects in this section are designed as next-step gateway interventions and by bringing households together at neighbourhood scale,

they enable aggregation that reduces risk and cost, unlocks household investment, and creates clearer routes to coordinated action.

This approach makes it easier for households to invest, either as match funders alongside public or philanthropic support, or as primary funders where they are able, whilst giving local authorities and investors a simpler, scalable model to support.



Smart Thermostats

This project supports households interested in improving heating control and reducing energy costs through smart thermostats. With relatively low upfront costs and straightforward installation, they offer an accessible next step for households already engaged in energy improvements. Evidence suggests smart thermostats can deliver bill savings of around 10–20% when accompanied with high-quality advice, often with relatively short payback periods.⁹²

A neighbourhood-scale bulk-buy and support programme would further reduce costs, improve uptake and help ensure devices are installed and used effectively. Delivered collectively, the project builds confidence and familiarity with smarter energy management while reducing risk for households and supporting more informed decision-making about future home improvements.



Next step insulation

This project supports households considering more substantial fabric improvements, such as floor insulation, cavity or solid wall insulation. These measures can feel high-risk without trusted advice, clear sequencing and reassurance. A neighbourhood-scale pilot delivering Building Assessments would help households identify appropriate next steps, understand options and make informed decisions. Delivered collectively, this approach improves quality, reduces duplication and creates clearer pathways towards more coordinated retrofit.



Stimulating Solar Uptake

This project supports households ready to invest in renewable energy by making solar PV simpler, cheaper and more accessible through neighbourhood-scale coordination. By aggregating demand across streets and using bulk-buying and coordinated delivery models, the project reduces costs, simplifies decision-making and improves quality. This enables household investment to act either as match funding alongside public or philanthropic support, or as primary capital for those able to invest independently.

Collective purchasing models such as Solar Together have demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach, achieving bulk-buying discounts of up to 34%.⁹³ With less than 1% of homes in the neighbourhood currently utilising their solar potential⁹⁴ there is clear scope to unlock significant household-led investment through a locally trusted, coordinated model.



4.2

Neighbourhood

A neighbourhood is where people live, work and play, and taking a proactive approach at this scale can help build resilience to rising energy costs, climate impacts and wider social pressures. This section sets out a number of practical starting-point opportunities in Southmead, focused on strengthening community assets, improving local value and supporting adaptation to a changing climate.

Improving assets of community value

Large, publicly accessible community buildings play an important role in neighbourhood life but are often difficult and costly to decarbonise. Many were built to older standards, have complex energy demands and operate under tight financial constraints, meaning they are frequently overlooked in retrofit programmes.

In Southmead, assets such as the Greenway Centre present both a challenge and a significant opportunity. With careful design and phased investment, these buildings can reduce

emissions and running costs while acting as visible demonstrators of low-carbon solutions, supporting local skills development and building confidence in place-based climate action.

Work through the Mission Net Zero programme assessed decarbonisation options for the Greenway Centre,⁹⁵ identifying opportunities to improve comfort, accessibility and operational resilience while creating a local example of how investment in shared assets can deliver community benefit alongside carbon reduction.



Heat, Decarbonising the Greenway Centre

The Greenway Centre is a well-used community hub operated by Southmead Development Trust since 1985, hosting a wide range of local services and activities. Building on work developed through Mission Net Zero,⁹⁶ proposals included replacing gas heating with air or ground-source heat pumps alongside targeted efficiency improvements.

These measures are expected to reduce emissions, stabilise energy costs for community services and provide a practical demonstration of low-carbon technologies. There is also potential to link heating infrastructure with neighbouring community facilities, such as the local GP surgery, children’s centre and rugby club, creating wider local benefits and testing neighbourhood-scale energy approaches.

As a visible and trusted local asset, the project offers an opportunity to test delivery models, build confidence in clean energy solutions and show how community infrastructure can anchor place-based climate investment.

Solar on Glencoyne Square housing development

Southmead Development Trust is leading the community-led housing development at Glencoyne Square (see Section 2.2.3), delivering affordable homes alongside community facilities. From the outset, proposals included rooftop solar generation designed to reduce energy costs for residents and embed low-carbon infrastructure within the development. Beyond direct financial and environmental benefits, the scheme demonstrates how renewable energy can be integrated into community-led housing from the start. It also provides an opportunity to test delivery approaches, build local capability and ensure the benefits of clean energy investment remain rooted in the neighbourhood.

Adapting to a changing climate

Southmead is identified as a priority area in Bristol for surface water flood risk, with particular challenges around Glencoyne Square, surrounding streets and parts of Greystoke Avenue. The neighbourhood also shows elevated vulnerability to overheating, reflecting housing characteristics, urban form and demographic factors that increase exposure during hotter periods.⁹⁷

Addressing these risks requires neighbourhood-scale approaches that improve environmental quality while supporting health, resilience and community confidence. Nature-based solutions such as urban greening, tree

planting and sustainable water management are strongly supported locally and offer practical opportunities to reduce overheating, manage rainfall and enhance public spaces.

Delivered in partnership with local organisations, these projects can provide visible early benefits while building capacity for longer-term climate action. Coordinated approaches such as bulk procurement, shared installation support and locally rooted engagement programmes can help reduce costs, improve participation and develop scalable delivery models that strengthen neighbourhood resilience over time.



Urban forestry in Southmead

Tree canopy cover in Southmead currently stands at around 17%, with some areas as low as 9%.⁹⁸ When compared with the Bristol average of 20%, this highlights clear potential for targeted greening that can deliver visible local benefits. Increasing tree cover will require approaches that are locally appropriate, visible and deliverable at neighbourhood scale so residents can see and feel the benefits early.

In the short term, actions such as planters, pocket greening and community-led planting can provide quick improvements to streets and public spaces while building local stewardship and confidence. Over time, more extensive street tree planting can help address overheating and air quality challenges while enhancing neighbourhood character, biodiversity and everyday wellbeing.

Emerging funding mechanisms, including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) investment and partnerships with local organisations, offer opportunities to support sustained greening while ensuring benefits remain locally rooted and capable of scaling over time.⁹⁹

Rainwater harvesting

Given Southmead’s elevated surface water flood risk, there is strong potential to expand neighbourhood-scale rainwater management through accessible household and community interventions. Simple measures such as water butts, rain gardens and small-scale drainage features can help manage rainfall locally while supporting greener streets and shared spaces, providing a practical first step towards more coordinated neighbourhood approaches over time.

These solutions are flexible, ranging from low-cost water butts accessible to most households through to larger or digitally managed home attenuation systems, enabling residents to engage at different levels. Previous engagement and collaborative design work by Walk Wheel Cycle Trust around Embleton Road¹⁰⁰ shows strong local interest for these types of initiatives and demonstrates how neighbourhood-scale delivery can be replicated elsewhere while keeping benefits locally grounded.

4.3 Skills

Building local skills, confidence and practical capacity to improve homes, reduce living costs and support everyday resilience is a clear priority in Southmead. At the same time, strengthening the green skills supply chain is becoming increasingly important across Bristol, the West of England and nationally as the transition to net zero accelerates.¹⁰¹

Demand is significant. Government estimates suggest delivery of the Heat and Buildings Strategy could support around 240,000 green-skilled jobs by 2035, while the Construction Leadership Council estimates the UK will require around 500,000 additional professionals and trades.¹⁰² In the West of England alone, up to 50,000 jobs are expected to support the transition, including around 14,000 linked to housing retrofit.¹⁰³

Despite this growing demand, much existing green-skills provision focuses on upskilling established contractors or promoting formal apprenticeships and technical training. These routes can remain difficult to access for many residents due to limited awareness, confidence and wider structural barriers. As outlined in Section 1.3, Southmead has a relatively young and diverse population alongside higher barriers to accessing education, training and economic opportunity than the Bristol average. This suggests the importance of earlier, locally rooted approaches that build confidence, awareness and readiness before people engage with formal training pathways.

There is also a wider structural mismatch between skills funding and delivery. Between 2019 and 2022, £3.3 billion of Apprenticeship

“At local scales community-led groups and public services such as libraries, museums and job centres can likewise underpin skills development and provision, with trade unions, student associations and the third sector together having a crucial role to play in creating the conditions needed to transform the skills system nationwide.”

Skills and Net Zero (2023)¹⁰⁵

Levy funding went unspent nationally, while procurement models in retrofit and construction often favour larger national firms.¹⁰⁴ This can limit local workforce development and reduce the economic benefits retained within communities where investment takes place. It also points to a clear opportunity for more place-based approaches that connect skills funding directly with neighbourhood delivery, helping ensure investment supports both workforce development and local economic resilience.

Trusted, place-based organisations such as Southmead Development Trust are well positioned to help bridge this gap through strong community relationships, locally rooted infrastructure and experience supporting participation across the neighbourhood. Alongside their direct work, they can play an important convening and enabling role within the wider skills ecosystem, connecting residents, training providers, employers and delivery partners. Over time, this can help build confidence, support community-led innovation and strengthen pathways into employment, ensuring the economic and social benefits of the net zero transition are retained locally while reducing delivery risk for future investment stay within the neighbourhood.

Community-led solutions: inspiring young people

Southmead Development Trust has long-standing, trusted relationships with young people across the neighbourhood, built through consistent youth work over many years. Many young people spend more time with their youth workers than with teachers, making places like The Ranch a key point of connection, influence and support.

At the same time, national demand for green skills is growing rapidly. The UK Government’s Clean Energy Jobs Plan estimates that clean energy could support an additional 420,000 jobs, doubling employment in the sector to around 860,000 roles. Many of these jobs are not traditionally perceived as ‘green’, including trades such as plumbing, electrical work and welding.¹⁰⁶

The Ranch offers free, open-access play and activity sessions for young people up to the age of 16, using themes such as energy, nature and the environment to support learning through exploration. Access to spaces such as Badocks Wood and the River Trym provides opportunities that are not always available through schools, making The Ranch an important third space for learning outside the classroom.

Research from the Prince’s Trust highlights a looming green skills crisis, with low awareness among young people of green careers and net zero, and a perception that these roles are only accessible through academic routes, limiting aspiration for those who struggle with traditional education.¹⁰⁷

This creates a clear opportunity for investment in a pilot initiative that builds on the existing reach and trust of The Ranch and the Greenway Centre. Designed as the first phase of a longer-term approach, the pilot would use revenue funding to support sustained engagement, trusted youth work and accessible activities that introduce green skills concepts early in ways that feel relevant and practical. Over time, this would help young people build interest and confidence, supported by volunteering and paid opportunities as they get older, and create clearer pathways into future training, employment and leadership roles within the green economy.

“The ‘Reskilling for Net Zero’ briefing found that over 60% of respondents had not heard of green skills and that only one in five knew which green skills employers require. This lack of awareness was identified as the leading barrier to the pursuit of green skills development.”

Skills and Net Zero (2023)¹⁰⁸

“We often talk about the natural progression being school, college and university, but some young people don’t connect with that. Many are very capable and learn better through practical work — gardening, making things, fixing bikes. One pupil already wants to be a cycle engineer. If we’re serious about sustainable travel, he could be right at the heart of it.”

Pastoral Lead and Pathways Learning Mentor at local primary school¹⁰⁹



Maximising opportunities for green innovation

In Southmead, strong community networks, trusted local organisations and resident-led activity already provide a solid foundation for innovation.¹¹⁰ Rather than requiring entirely new initiatives, this social capital offers something meaningful to build on.

Directly connecting residents into existing employability, skills and enterprise programmes locally could help unlock green opportunities earlier, enabling more people to participate in the transition and apply their lived experience to practical challenges. The Greenway Centre, a well-recognised and trusted community asset, offers a practical base from which green skills providers, training activity and community innovation could operate. Using established local infrastructure in this way can make opportunities more accessible while helping ensure benefits remain rooted in the neighbourhood.

Small-scale mechanisms such as a targeted Energy Challenge Fund supporting local prototypes, retrofit ideas or community-led trials could also make it easier for residents and businesses to test solutions, build confidence and strengthen links to initiatives like the Bristol Local Access Programme that ran from 2021-25¹¹¹ and Strong Foundations Bristol. Together, these approaches can nurture local skills, enterprise and routes into green work while keeping social and economic benefits grounded in Southmead.

“Communities are built through the hard work, time and imagination of people coming together. Right across the country, people have endless ideas to improve their neighbourhood – they just need the resources and tools to make that change happen.”

UK Government - Pride of Place, 2025¹¹²



Longer-term enterprise: connecting supply and demand – a brokerage model

Evidence from the Warm Homes Champion Project and Transforming Energy Together highlights a clear mismatch between demand for home energy improvements and access to trusted, reliable providers. In Southmead, some residents have reported negative experiences with door-to-door retrofit sales approaches and poor-quality work, contributing to wider mistrust around decarbonisation activity.¹¹³ Addressing this trust gap is therefore as important as addressing technical delivery.

A locally rooted brokerage model offers one practical response. By acting as a trusted intermediary between households, tradespeople, training providers and delivery partners, such an approach could help residents access vetted

suppliers, clearer information and appropriate support.¹¹⁴ Partnerships with established regional organisations such as The Green Register or Retrofit West could provide coordination, quality assurance and consistent standards, strengthening confidence for both residents and funders.

This kind of brokerage is needed across Bristol as retrofit demand grows, but Southmead’s strong community infrastructure and trusted local organisations make it a particularly appropriate place to test and refine such an approach. Done well, it could improve access to reliable services, reduce delivery risk and help ensure the economic and social benefits of retrofit investment are retained locally.



5.

Towards delivery: collaboration in action

As regional investment frameworks and national programmes continue to develop, there is a growing opportunity to connect community priorities with emerging funding, policy and delivery structures. By working collaboratively, local organisations, communities and Bristol City Council, can help progress projects, strengthen local capacity and governance, and translate neighbourhood ambitions into practical, investable activity.

This section highlights the shared commitment and intent across communities, Bristol City Council and the wider region to support the transition from early-stage planning to coordinated delivery across Southmead and the wider Bristol portfolio, acknowledging key routes to delivery and setting out priority areas of focus in the near term.



5.1

A shared commitment

Bristol City Council and local partners share a commitment to supporting meaningful, community-led climate action in Southmead and across the wider Bristol portfolio of neighbourhood climate investment plans. Building on the learning and opportunities identified through this work, partners intend to continue collaborative exploration of how priorities can be progressed, drawing on emerging regional arrangements, national policy developments and other potential funding sources.

The inclusion of projects in these plans does not imply agreement from any organisation to approve or undertake the work described. The plans are a snapshot in time and a great starting point but further conversations with the community organisations will be needed before developing the projects described to check that these are still what the community wishes to proceed with. The endorsement of these plans does not constitute Bristol City Council approval for the projects within the plans. Implementation of any of the projects by Bristol City Council would be subject to additional governance approvals.

Routes to local delivery: national and regional opportunities

In early 2026, the Government published the Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan: two significant policy initiatives focused on home energy improvement, local energy systems and skills development.¹¹⁵ These areas align closely with priorities identified by the Southmead community through this plan. Having a set of clearly articulated, community-rooted investment priorities provides a stronger basis for Bristol City Council, alongside partners, to align with emerging programmes and secure resources where opportunities arise.

Alongside these national initiatives, the community priorities set out in this plan have also informed the emerging West of England Clean Energy Investment Plan and proposed delivery mechanisms. Further work is planned to ensure these neighbourhood priorities continue to be integrated with developing regional and citywide plans over the coming months.

Key focus areas

Subject to resources being available, this ongoing collaboration is expected to focus on:

- Strengthening community capacity and governance arrangements
- Developing projects to investment-ready stage
- Aggregating neighbourhood initiatives where this supports scale and efficiency
- Engaging delivery partners, funders and investors
- Ensuring alignment with evolving regional and national programmes.

While progress will depend on funding availability, policy development and continued partnership working, the foundations established through this plan - strong community engagement, clear priorities and coordinated working across Bristol neighbourhoods - provide a credible basis for moving from planning toward delivery in Southmead.



6

Glossary of terms

Affordability: The extent to which households can reasonably meet the costs of housing, energy and essential living expenses without financial hardship.

Area-based approach: A coordinated approach to improving homes or infrastructure across a defined neighbourhood or area, rather than working one building at a time.

Carbon emissions: Gases released into the atmosphere (such as carbon dioxide) from activities like heating homes, transport and electricity use, which contribute to climate change.

Carbon neutral: When the total carbon emissions produced are balanced by actions that reduce or remove the same amount from the atmosphere.

Climate adaptation: Changes that help people, homes and neighbourhoods cope with the impacts of climate change, such as overheating, flooding or extreme weather.

Climate justice: The principle that climate action should address inequality and ensure that those least responsible for emissions are not unfairly burdened and benefit from solutions.

Climate resilience: The ability of homes, infrastructure and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate impacts.

Community capacity: The skills, knowledge, relationships and resources within a community that enable it to organise, participate in and deliver local projects.

Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP): A plan developed with local residents that sets out a shared vision and priorities for climate and nature action in a neighbourhood.

Community Climate Investment Plan (CCIP): A plan that translates community priorities into practical, fundable projects focused on homes, neighbourhood infrastructure and local skills.

Community-led: Designed, shaped or delivered with strong involvement and leadership from local residents and community organisations.

Community wealth: Economic value, jobs and skills that are generated and retained within the local area rather than flowing out to external organisations.

Decarbonisation: Reducing carbon emissions from homes, transport, buildings and energy systems.

Energy efficiency: Improving how a building uses energy so less is wasted — for example through insulation, draughtproofing or more efficient heating systems.

Fuel poverty: When a household struggles to afford adequate heating and energy services at reasonable cost.

Green infrastructure: Natural and designed features such as trees, parks, green roofs and sustainable drainage that improve environmental quality and climate resilience.

Green jobs: Employment that supports environmental sustainability, including roles in retrofit, renewable energy, nature restoration and low-carbon construction.

Just transition: A shift to a low-carbon economy that is fair and inclusive, ensuring that benefits and opportunities are shared, especially with those most affected by inequality.

Local energy system: Energy generation and supply that happens close to where it is used, such as rooftop solar panels or shared neighbourhood energy projects.

Low-carbon heating: Heating systems that produce little or no carbon emissions, such as heat pumps or heat networks.

Mixed tenure: A neighbourhood with different types of housing ownership, including owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing.

Net zero: Achieving a balance between the carbon emissions produced and those removed from the atmosphere.

Neighbourhood-scale approach: Coordinating improvements across a street or area to reduce costs, increase impact and improve fairness, rather than upgrading one building at a time.

Renewable energy: Energy from natural sources that are constantly replenished, such as solar, wind or hydro power.

Retrofit: Upgrading existing homes or buildings to improve energy efficiency, comfort and climate resilience.

Tenure-blind approach: Designing programmes so people can participate regardless of whether they own or rent their home.

7

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