

Climate Change Action Plan 2021/22

YEAR TWO PROGRESS REPORT

Key		
Completed	Ongoing	Not Started / Stalled

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
<p>Policy and engagement</p> <p>Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the council</p>	<p>Ensure climate change issues and biodiversity goals are considered in decision making, by including climate change impacts within all reports to council members.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Climate change and biodiversity are included as “Policy Considerations” on all report templates for Council Advisory Boards and Committees. Consequently, many reports have reflected on the climate change and biodiversity impacts of decisions made by the Council.</p> <p>TMBC appointed a dedicated Climate Change Officer in February 2022.</p> <p>Climate Change is included in the Corporate Plan.</p>
<p>Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate change</p>	<p>Work with Kent County Council and attend the Climate Change Network meetings to ensure collaboration and help to meet targets in the Kent Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Climate Change Officer is a member of the KCC Climate Change Network and regularly engages with KCC to progress targets in the ELES, support work on “Plan Tree” and collaborate on possible sustainable procurement initiatives.</p>

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	<p>Launch the Tonbridge and Malling Climate Change Forum. Agree terms of reference with the partners, set work programme/actions for the group and publish on the council website.</p>	<p>Jun-21</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The CCF is now established, with agreed TOR. The minutes of the meetings are to be published on the council website.</p> <p>So far, the group has been instrumental in securing just under 1,000 free trees from the Woodland Trust which have been planted across the Borough. The Council will “match” with 1,000 trees to be planted in the 2022/23 planting season.</p>
<p>Evidence, prioritise and agree measures to be taken to lower carbon emissions at the council.</p>	<p>Consider carbon reduction options (identified by Laser) from own estate and operations at SSEAB. Agree future targets and publish details.</p>	<p>Mar-22</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Following analysis of the Laser report at SSEAB, the focus will be on the biggest source of carbon emissions from within the Council’s own estate. Work is currently underway to appoint consultants to look at energy efficiency and renewable energy measures at Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool.</p> <p>Further carbon audits will be completed annually from 2022 , with back dated audits being completed for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Consequently, this work will enable increased tracking of carbon and help establish pathways to our 2030 net zero target.</p>

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Sustainable Development	Continue to pursue planning policies in the council's emerging Local Plan that will facilitate the delivery of sustainable development through location, orientation, and design, and through the integration of measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), charging points for electric vehicles, water efficiency and habitat creation.	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>Currently working towards producing the Council's new Local Plan which will include policies to facilitate the delivery of sustainable development.</p> <p>Imminent changes: Changes to the Building Regulations in June 2022 will significantly improve the energy performance of new homes and require charge points for electric vehicles to be installed as part of new developments.</p>
	Support, where appropriate, sustainable development which achieves an energy performance better than the regulations through decision-taking on planning applications.	Ongoing	Ongoing	<p>The Council has worked to deliver sustainable development outcomes in line with the adopted development plan, national policy and material planning considerations, where it is feasible and viable to do so.</p> <p>The Council is mindful that imminent changes (June 2022) to the Building Regulations on the conservation of fuel and power will achieve significant improvements in the energy performance of new homes (31% less CO2 emissions), which will contribute to this target.</p>

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Transport Support the improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough	To prepare a new active travel strategy which will include cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations.	Nov-21	Ongoing	Cycle route priorities were recently published for consultation. Officers are currently reviewing feedback and awaiting a check of cycle route audit by KCC highways. Timetable to be confirmed.
Improve the environmental standards of licensed taxis operating in the borough.	Undertake consultation with taxi stakeholders regarding a phased vehicle replacement schedule, to meet higher Euro emission standards, working towards vehicles becoming Zero emission capable (ZEC) or Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) over the next 10 years.	Nov-21	Completed	Consultation completed at the end of 2021, with 33 responses. Generally, respondents agreed with the policy statements proposed with some suggesting that more could be done to bring about more stringent net zero standards.
ULEV Provide electric charging points across the borough.	Subject to consideration by CHAB and subsequent approval of the proposed approach by Cabinet in July, it is the intention to progress the Phase 1 programme of charges in selected car parks as soon as is practicably possible. Phase 2 will be dependent on the outcome of the procurement exercise being progressed on a partnership basis with KCC.	Phase 1 – Dec 2021 Phase 2 – March 2022	Completed	Phase 1 is currently being completed with 32 EV charger installations across 6 council car parks. Phase 2 will allow potentially up to 106 chargers across other council owned car parks. This should be able to proceed in Summer 2022. The council also has purchased an electric vehicle.

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Air Quality	Continue to full implementation of a borough wide Anti Idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines.	Dec-21	Ongoing	TMBC was successful with a DEFRA grant bid, providing £36k for a further anti-idling project focused around T&M schools, which includes sensors and more anti-idling signs.	
	Review Air Quality and put measures in place to reduce emissions.	In conjunction with the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership, refresh the Kent Air website as a one stop shop for air quality matters in Kent and include updated educational material to inform on current air quality and simple steps which can be taken to improve air quality.	Sep-21	Completed	Kent Air website was updated at the end of 2021. Additional education materials were provided in April 2022.
	Adopt and publish TMBC's revised Air Quality Action Plan.	Sep-21	Completed	TMBC's revised Air Quality Action Plan has been adopted and published.	
Habitats & Biodiversity	In partnership with Kent County Council, monitor the establishment of the recently planted Tiny Forest in Leybourne. Publish findings.	Ongoing with KCC for 3 years.	Ongoing	The Tiny Forest is still ongoing and is being maintained by KCC.	

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Habitats & Biodiversity Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	In partnership with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership, monitor the Roadside Nature Reserve trial in Tonbridge. Publish findings.	Oct/Nov 2021	Completed	The results were presented to the councils Communities and Housing advisory board on 09/11/2021 which can be found here - Agenda for Communities and Housing Advisory Board on Tuesday, 9th November, 2021, 7.30 pm (tmbc.gov.uk) . The report and annex highlight the benefits for biodiversity in not mowing areas. Within the report which Council members approved was a recommendation for Officers to bring forward sites for the future. In a meeting of the same advisory board on 15/02/2022 which can be found here - Agenda for Communities and Housing Advisory Board on Tuesday, 15th February, 2022, 7.30 pm (tmbc.gov.uk) a number of further sites were brought forward, approved and started.
	Publish a tree charter for the borough	Aug-21	Completed	The TMBC Tree Charter was published in late 2021. Just under 1000 trees have since been planted on council land, as a result of the CCFs Woodland Trust application for free trees. TMBC will match fund these trees, planting a further 1000 on council land in the 2022/2023 planting season. The council has fed into KCC's Plan Tree consultation and will further work with KCC on Kent wide biodiversity objectives through the Kent Plan Tree Partnership.

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<p>Housing & Energy Conservation</p> <p>The council is working in partnership with Fenland District Council and Clarion Housing Group having successfully obtained £2.25m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator funding.</p>	<p>Deliver deep retrofit energy efficiency measures to up to 80 hard to treat Wimpey No Fines constructed homes in Tonbridge. Clarion to provide £2.25m match funding.</p>	<p>Dec-21</p>	<p>Partially Complete</p>	<p>The Demonstrator scheme has successfully identified lessons learned for scaling up retrofit for future SHDF waves. A reduced number of properties were completed as unit cost was greater than anticipated. Information obtained will be used to refine future SHDF waves.</p> <p>47 hard to treat Wimpey No Fine constructed homes in Tonbridge were retrofitted with energy efficiency measures including: external wall insulation, new doors and windows and PV panels to date. Works are in progress on further 13 homes to be completed by end of June 2022.</p>
<p>TMBC has been provisionally allocated £332,903 Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 funding to help improve the worst energy efficient homes occupied by low-income households across all tenures</p>	<p>Develop and implement a proposal to help improve 60 homes.</p>	<p>Jun-21</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Proposal to help improve 60 homes developed and provided to the Greater Southeast Energy Hub (Hub)</p> <p>LAD Phase 2 timescale for delivery exceptionally tight and the Hub experienced extended contract/procurement challenges which impacted on delivery of the scheme. By 31 March 2022, 16 homes had been registered for assessment, installations must be completed by end of June 2022</p>

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Housing & Energy Conservation Offer energy efficiency advice to landlords and identify properties with a Category 1 Excess Cold hazard present. Where necessary action will be taken to improve the energy efficiency and help reduce carbon emissions.	Proactively target a further 100 privately rented properties in breach of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards following up where Landlords have not responded to requests for information in last year's MEEs initiative and undertaking HHSRS assessment to identify significant hazards including excess cold.	April 2021 – March 2022	Completed	MEES compliance and enforcement project completed successfully and MEES work embedded into housing improvement team's processes. Over 70 private rented sector (PRS) homes have become MEES compliant since the project began with over 100 PRS owners contacted. General MEES awareness in the landlord community increased. TMBC partnered National Residential Landlords Association and West Kent Las to deliver a successful special WK Landlord Forum on MEES attended by circa 100 + PRS landlords/stakeholders.
Support our residents by signposting to information on energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and funding schemes so they can make informed decisions.	We will seek to assist 10 households. Financial assistance is available to assist low income vulnerable to cold households to access affordable warmth in the home while also encouraging these households to take action to reduce carbon emissions.	April 2021 – March 2022	Partially Complete	We have assisted 6 low-income vulnerable to cold households to access affordable warmth in the home.
	Support any new provision of council owned temporary accommodation within the borough with feasibility studies to advise on potential for improved energy efficiency and any renewable potential.	April 2021 – March 2022	Ongoing	This action is a standing pledge/aspiration (started last year with a feasibility study for existing temporary accommodation (TA) in Pembury Road Tonbridge) that should we procure further council owned TA we will undertake a feasibility study to identify what is needed to improve its energy efficiency.

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Waste Minimisation & Recycling Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle.	Continue to reduce waste arisings and increase recycling/composting levels in line with the Kent Resource Partnership Business Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Annual analysis carried out by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) shows that households across the borough recycled 51.6 per cent of their rubbish. The average across Kent was 43 per cent with a national average for England of 42 per cent.
Community & Business Engagement Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin.	Ongoing	Ongoing	A bulletin is produced, with the latest update announcing climate change strategy.
Community & Business Engagement Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Launch the Green Business Grant Scheme	Jul-21	Completed	Launched round 1 from July 2021 - September 2021 and round 2 from February 2022 to March 2022. £150k has been allocated.
	Fund a minimum of 15 initiatives through the Green Business Grant scheme that support carbon reduction and improve energy efficiency amongst our local businesses.	Mar-22	Completed	18 initiatives were funded in round 1 and 17 initiatives have been allocated funding in round 2. 35 initiatives in total have been allocated funding.
	Complete the Local Shops and Parades Fund Scheme, with a minimum of 12 projects that support improvements to our independent retail outlets.	Mar-22	Completed	14 projects have been funded through the Local Shops and Parades Fund Scheme.

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Raise awareness of climate change, providing regular updates and information.	Work with KCC to promote and support the Lower Carbon Across the South East initiative.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Continued signposting of businesses to the Lower Carbon Across the South East initiative.
	Launch new website with greater visibility of TMBC environmental and climate change initiatives. Regular updates and prominent links to be provided from the main home page. Establish a dedicated area within the site for promotion of climate change strategy, Action Plans and related topics. Provide updates about climate change policies and give greater prominence via the live news feed on the homepage.	Jun-21	Completed	Comms treat the environment and climate change as strategically important news topics, publishing regular news stories related to this priority on the website homepage. The environment and climate change has regular, prominent links on the main website homepage. However, this is occasionally removed to highlight other important issues, e.g. the energy rebate and the Ukraine crisis. There is an established, dedicated area for climate change on TMBC's website.
TMBC Estate Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations.	Continue to progress review of office accommodation with a view to rationalising the space occupied, to reduce energy usage and reduce carbon emissions. Publish findings.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Progress is continuing with the review of the Council's office accommodation. Rough completion timescale being the end of 2024.

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<p>TMBC Estate</p> <p>Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations.</p> <p>Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients.</p>	<p>Deliver a new lakeside facility at Leybourne Lakes Country Park giving due consideration to environmental credentials including a ground source heat pump and solar panels. Publish findings.</p>	Apr-22	Ongoing	<p>Due for completion in early summer and will include solar panels and lake source heat pumps.</p>
	<p>Investigate the potential provision of solar panels on the pool hall roof at Larkfield Leisure Centre. Publish Findings.</p>	Mar-22	Ongoing	<p>Project scope was assessed and it was determined that we will procure carbon descent plans for Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool related to building fabric and services so that individual projects can be brought forward to Members for consideration.</p>
	<p>Continuation of cloud migration to enable significant carbon reductions. It is anticipated that the council should see a reduction of 73% (34472kg CO2 / annum).</p>	Mar-22	Completed	<p>Migration has been completed. Anticipated that we have achieved a minimum 73% reduction.</p>
<p>Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients.</p>	<p>Implement a digital post room to significantly reduce the amount of paper sent out by the council.</p>	Mar-22	Ongoing	<p>The project to implement a digital post room is continuing with work being undertaken with individual services to determine where paper usage can be reduced.</p>