

Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25 YEAR FIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Key		
Complete	Ongoing	Not Started / Stalled

Policy and Engagement

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council.	Deliver climate change training to staff and Members, offering courses on an ongoing basis.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Carbon Literacy training has been offered to staff with courses complete in 2024/25. Further training to be offered in 2025/26.
	Develop options for reducing car travel and emissions from TMBC staff commuting and business travel	March 2025	Ongoing	Options continue to be developed, including the possibility of a carpool for staff to use for site visits and business travel.
Monitor and report Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's carbon emissions	Ensure all Climate Change Action Plans, Progress Reports and Carbon Audits are easily accessible and published on the climate change webpage	July 2024	Complete	The Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25 and Progress report and carbon audit for 2023/24 were published on the TMBC website on schedule www.tmbc.gov.uk/climatechange
Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate	Engage with KCC and other councils through Climate Change Network (CCN) meetings sharing case studies, best practice, and seeking areas of support and collaboration	Ongoing	Complete	TMBC's Climate Change Officer participates in KCC's Climate Change Network and relevant sub-groups to share case studies, best practice examples, and identify possible areas for collaboration.
Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate	Continue to engage with the delivery of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) through TMBC's actions and partnership working.	Ongoing	Complete	TMBC continues to engage with the delivery of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy at local level and in partnership.

Sustainable Development and Transport

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Sustainable Development	Continue to pursue planning policies in the Council's emerging Local Plan that will facilitate the delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation, design measures and sustainable development patterns, progressing to Regulation 18b and public consultation, drawing on updated evidence, including on green infrastructure and climate change.	Ongoing		The Policy team are continuing to prepare and draft the new Local Plan and currently writing draft policies for inclusion in the Plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable development and sustainable patterns of development. The team are also commissioning further evidence on flood risk and sustainable transport.
	Through the grant of planning permission, the Council will seek to deliver sustainable development outcomes in line with the adopted development plan, national policy and material planning considerations.	Ongoing		The Development Management team are continuing to determine planning applications based on sustainable development objectives in accordance with the adopted Development Plan and National Policy.
Transport Support the improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough	Complete preparation of the new active travel strategy which will include cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations.	Autumn 2025		The preparation of the Active Travel Strategy is ongoing and remains aligned to the preparation of the Local Plan. Due to changes to the plan making process introduced by the December 2024 NPPF, the timetable for this work has changed. It is now expected that a draft of the Strategy will be published alongside the Local Plan during autumn 2025.

ULEV

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Provide electric charging points across the borough.	Deliver Phase 2 provision of an additional 60 chargers in the Council's car parks over the 2 year contract	May 25		Phase 2 commissioning ongoing, subject to connection by UK Power Networks
Decarbonise TMBC owned vehicles	Undertake a vehicle replacement schedule (transitioning to ULEV) for all parking vehicles, in line where possible with the capital renewals programme and expected lifespan.	Ongoing		As and when vehicles reach end of life, options will be fully reviewed.
Improve the environmental standards of licensed taxis operating in the borough.	Progress with taxi licencing policy renewal process through Licensing & Appeals committee followed by a minimum 6-week consultation with the trade and interested parties in Autumn 2023.	March 24		Appetite to progress with proposals around ULEV for taxi's has been put on hold, pending wider work within Kent. A joined-up approach needs to be progressed to facilitate changes.
	Provide wider information regarding taxi EV charging provision as those installations progress.	Ongoing		Publicity undertaken via social media/website, regarding EV charging as and when new charge points are rolled out.
	Continue engagement with KCC through the CCN regarding future taxi licencing. Share with trade and participate in schemes as appropriate, for example 'try before you buy'	Ongoing		Officers will continue to engage with the KCC CCN as and when meetings take place.
	Progress strategy for future of licenced taxi fleet through Licensing & Appeals committee report on air quality, changes in the licenced taxi vehicle fleet, and proposals for vehicle requirements to 2030.	Ongoing		Work needs to be progressed to deliver policy changes that encourage the registration of ULEV compliant vehicles. Uptake of EVs is increasing naturally as technology and costs make this a more viable option.

Air Quality

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Continue the full implementation of a borough wide Anti-idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines.	Continue the full implementation of a borough wide Anti-idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines.	Ongoing		Works to install anti-idling signage around primary schools and major road junctions in the Borough are now predominately complete. We remain open to suggestions for sites for signage on an ad hoc basis, mainly on request from Councillors. An anti-idling message was sent out to all primary schools in the new year for dissemination to parents via clubs/newsletters.
	Pilot a Car Club within the Council for individuals use in local communities.	March 2025		Report taken to Management Team providing information on several car club options/companies. Further work to progress this agenda will be undertaken in 2025/26.

Habitats & Biodiversity

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Develop a woodland management plan for Taddington Valley in liaison with the Forestry Commission.	Autumn 24		Woodland management plan has been approved by Forestry Commission and is now live. Works are proceeding in accordance with the Management Plan.
	Continue with the lakeside revetment works in liaison with volunteers at Haysden Country Park, including a variety of aquatic plants.	March 25		Lakeside revetment complete. Aquatic plants have been planted and are being monitored and replaced where necessary.
	Investigate a Roadside Nature Reserve programme with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to monitor and record species and identify maintenance alterations to enhance biodiversity.	March 25		Programme agreed and order placed in April 2025. Monitoring started in April 2025 and annual report due at end of 2025.
	Consider implementation of No Mow May within appropriate Amenity POS following commencement of new GM Contract in January 2025	March 25		Council participated in No Mow May across Public Open Spaces. List of exclusions in place that includes Tonbridge Cemetery and all Sportsgrounds.
	Continue to plant a mixture of 1000 trees and whips a year in appropriate areas of Council Owned Land. Following planting, monitor planted trees to ensure best chance of establishment, and plant more trees to ensure an annual net gain overall.	Ongoing		Target achieved – 1000 trees planted.

Housing & Energy Conservation

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes.	<p>Collaborate with Kent County Council and iChoosr to make solar PV and batteries more accessible and affordable for our residents by delivering a group buying scheme.</p> <p>Deliver a marketing campaign with Kent County Council to target eligible households to participate Solar Together Kent.</p>	June 2025		<p>The Council undertook targeted promotion for both Spring and Autumn 2024 rounds of Solar Together:</p> <p>Spring 2024 auction resulted in 22 PV installations</p> <p>Autum 2024 auction 32 registrants accepted their Solar Together proposal however 12 registrants have subsequently dropped out.</p> <p>12 installations have been completed to date with installations continuing across Kent until the end of June 2025.</p>
Council working in partnership to deliver the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	<p>To encourage the upgrade of low energy efficient social housing in our area to improve properties and reduce carbon emissions by installing whole house retrofit measures and reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>Liaise with our housing association partners for example, Clarion Housing Group and Golding Homes, to influence delivery of energy efficiency funding in our areas, through for example Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding (SHDF) Wave 1.2 and SHDF Wave 3.</p>	March 26		<p>Golding Homes have completed their SHDF Wave 2.1 retrofit programme at Royal British Legion Village (RBLV) installing air source heat pumps and new windows/doors in 67 homes. Homes already have fabric insulation. Their SHDF Wave 3 programme includes 50 homes in the TMBC area. The timeframe for SHDF Wave 3 delivery is 2025 to 2028.</p> <p>Awaiting update from Clarion Homes regarding home energy upgrades delivered in TMBC area.</p>

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
	<p>To encourage the upgrade of low energy efficient private tenure homes in our area to improve properties and reduce carbon emissions by installing whole house retrofit measures.</p> <p>Deliver retrofit energy efficiency measures through Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) targeting funding to c 48 low-income households living in low efficient 'off gas' homes (i.e., not using gas as main heating).</p>	March 25		<p>The Council has delivered HUG2 through two schemes operating in its borough both of which are being delivered by E.ON. While both HUG scheme offers resulted in a disappointingly low take up from the target audience of low energy efficient 'off gas' network homes occupied by low-income households, 12 homes* overall have benefitted from receiving retrofit HUG2 measures tailored to their home for example measures such as loft insulation, high heat retention storage heaters and solar (pv) panels.</p> <p>* Provisional HUG scheme figures</p>

Waste Minimization & Recycling

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle.	Continue with Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) re-use campaigns, including promotion of food waste & garden waste collections; and ongoing promotions aimed at reducing contamination & increasing recycling performance.	March 25		KRP Communications group re-established in May and priority campaign for food waste reduction and fly tipping now planned. Active promotion planned for National Recycling Week in September. Attendance at VE Day event to raise awareness of recycling and food waste. Additional events taking place over summer.
	Complete roll out of food waste for flats in key urban hotspots.	March 25		Good progress made with final phase on track to complete summer 2025.
	Continue working with KRP and national partners such as WRAP and Recoup (plastic specific).	Ongoing		Representation at all meetings continues to ensure the council actively takes part in all campaigns. WRAP project in place to identify potential efficiencies in waste disposal across Kent.

Community & Business Engagement

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Delivery of Round 4 of the Green Business Grant Scheme to support local businesses/organisations with capital investments, including PV panels, heat source pumps, LED lighting and insulation.	March 25		April 2024 – grants awarded to successful applicants (this was met and there were 11 in total) September 2024 – consideration of a Round 5 (plans were put in place subject to UKSPF 2025/26 funding, which was subsequently allocated by Government in November 2024 and Round 5 launched in April 2025) January 2025 – all projects completed (all projects were completed by January 2025) March 2025 – all grant payments made to completed projects (all completed by February 2025)
	Delivery of Round 4 of the Shopfront and Vacant Unit Improvement Grant Scheme, including grant support for energy efficiency measures.	March 25		September 2024 – consideration of a Round 5 (was considered but wasn't required) January 2025 – all projects completed (all projects were completed in March 2025) March 2025 – all grant payments made to completed projects (all payments were made by March 2025)
	Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin, with at least 2 articles per annum	Ongoing		June 2024 – specific article on the new action plan. Ongoing – regular articles regarding individual Climate Change projects.
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.	Work with KCC and local business to share and signpost information, support and grants for business carbon reduction	Ongoing		All applicants to the Green Business Grant Scheme (11 businesses/organisations) that requested a referral were referred to Low Carbon Kent.
	Work in partnership with Mid Kent College to support the delivery of Green Retrofit Training in order to upskill our local construction workers/businesses.	March 25		Pilot Courses – up to May 2024 Subsidised courses – up to March 2025 (these were developed and marketed from May 2024. Take up rate was lower than hoped for with just over 20 people taking up the courses, but the courses will continue to be made available now they have been established (albeit without the subsidy))

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.	Build collaborative working and public engagement with the Climate Change Forum, identifying areas for joint Council and community climate and environment action.	Ongoing		The Climate Change Forum continues to meet quarterly to develop opportunities for community engagement on climate action.
Support communities, voluntary groups and Parishes in taking climate action	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training Grants to support community and voluntary groups, SMEs, and Parish and Town Councils to understand climate change, carbon footprints and how to take new, significant actions to reduce emissions.	March 25		Carbon Literacy training courses completed by 41 trainees from schools, community groups, Parishes and individuals.
	Deliver Round 2 of Community Development Grants, part funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to support organisations based in the borough and/or providing a direct service to residents in line with community priorities.	March 25		Round 2 awarded grants to 43 charitable and community organisations, with all projects were completed in 2024/25. "Supporting environmental and carbon reduction initiatives" was one of the priority areas for funding, with projects including community and therapeutic gardens or greenspaces, and the installation of solar panels on community building.
Raise awareness of climate change, providing regular updates and information.	To continue to provide local borough information to residents, identifying likely topics of interest.	Ongoing		Regular publicity regarding the installation of energy efficient installations for all our buildings as and when completed via social media, resident's newsletters, media releases and website. Promotion of "green" campaigns such as Solar Together, tree planting campaign, anti-idling, carbon literacy training, Christmas recycling campaign, green business grants and messaging around sustainability.

TMBC Estate

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Status	Update
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations.	Deliver energy efficiency, solar generation and improved building management at Larkfield Leisure Centre through the Swimming Pool Support Fund grant from Sports England.	March 25		New solar PV installation completed utilising external grant funding. Separate scheme to improve roof insulation completed.
	Complete installation of heat pump to replace end-of-life gas boilers at Larkfield Leisure Centre through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund grant from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by Salix.	February 26		External trenching works completed ahead of installation of new electricity supply cable. Next phase of work will see installation of heat pumps and air handling unit.
	Develop heat decarbonisation plans, taking a 'fabric first approach', for other high energy use buildings in TMBC's estate, subject to external grant application	March 25		Complete for Larkfield LC. Decarbonisation plan commissioned for Tonbridge Pool.
	Decarbonise Gibson East as part of the Council's rationalisation of Kings Hill office space	Autumn 25		Procurement exercise nearing completion, with works anticipated to start on site late summer.
Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients.	New efficient devices to be rolled out to staff in line with the renewals of equipment.	March 25		44 x Energy efficient laptops rolled out per quarter over past year.
	Business process re-engineering, mobile solutions and digitisation to improve efficiency and reduce carbon footprint continues across services.	Ongoing		Update received from SDS (Smarter Digital Solutions) re mapping of current processes: Files for Enforcement and Complaints passed to Solution Architect for re-engineering in Feb & June 2025 respectively. Approvals still pending for Temporary Accom and FOI Requests (reminders sent). Building Safety Levy is signed off pending update once information becomes available. The S106 Planning process is incomplete, and Leisure Services' tree inspection mapping will resume in Autumn.

