

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Interim Chief Executive
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NB - This agenda contains proposals, recommendations and options. These do not represent Council policy or decisions until they have received proper consideration through the full decision making process.

Contact: Democratic Services
committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk

14 May 2024

To: MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY
SELECT COMMITTEE
(Copies to all Members of the Council)

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024 commencing at 7.30 pm.

Members of the Committee are required to attend in person. Other Members may attend in person or participate online via MS Teams.

Information on how to observe the meeting will be published on the Council's website.

Yours faithfully

ADRIAN STANFIELD

Interim Chief Executive

A G E N D A

1. Guidance for the Conduct of Meetings

5 - 8

PART 1 - PUBLIC

2. Apologies for absence

3. Notification of Substitute Members

Substitute members to be appointed at Annual Council

4. Declarations of interest 9 - 10

Members are reminded of their obligation under the Council's Code of Conduct to disclose any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests in any matter(s) to be considered or being considered at the meeting. These are explained in the Code of Conduct on the Council's website at [Code of conduct for members – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council \(tmbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/code-of-conduct-for-members).

Members in any doubt about such declarations are advised to contact Legal or Democratic Services in advance of the meeting.

5. Minutes 11 - 16

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee held on 7 February 2024.

Matters for Corporate Monitoring

6. Corporate Key Performance Indicators 17 - 26

This report provides data on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are aligned to the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 and monitored on a quarterly or annual basis. The data provided in this report relates to the period up to the end of March 2024.

Matters for Recommendation to the Cabinet

7. Graffiti Update 27 - 42

This report provides an update on the work to tackle graffiti in the borough, including feedback from the public consultation and also on the development of a Graffiti Policy.

8. Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024 - 2025 43 - 68

This report provides details of the initiatives the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) had carried out during the previous year and set out the priorities for the forthcoming year.

9. Air Quality Management Area Status Updates and Recommendations 69 - 78

This report presents the monitoring results at the six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the borough and recommends revocation of the M20 AQMA in accordance with the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 2022 document (TG22), the statutory guidance explaining how local authorities should comply with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 as amended by the Environment Act 2021.

Matters submitted for Information

10. Developing a Pathway to Carbon Neutral by 2030 79 - 102

This report presents for information a modelled pathway of emissions reductions for major measures to 2030.

11. Work Programme 2024 103 - 104

The Work Programme setting out matters to be scrutinised during 2024 is attached for information. Members can suggest future items by liaising with the Chair of the Committee.

12. Urgent Items 105 - 106

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive

Matters for consideration in Private

13. Exclusion of Press and Public 107 - 108

The Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any items the publication of which would disclose exempt information.

PART 2 - PRIVATE

14. Urgent Items 109 - 110

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

MEMBERSHIP

To be appointed at Annual Council

GUIDANCE ON HOW MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED

- (1) Most of the Borough Council meetings are livestreamed, unless there is exempt or confidential business being discussed, giving residents the opportunity to see decision making in action. These can be watched via our YouTube channel. When it is not possible to livestream meetings they are recorded and uploaded as soon as possible:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPp-IJISNgoF-ugSzxjAPfw/featured>

- (2) There are no fire drills planned during the time a meeting is being held. For the benefit of those in the meeting room, the fire alarm is a long continuous bell and the exits are via the doors used to enter the room. An officer on site will lead any evacuation.
- (3) Should you need this agenda or any of the reports in a different format, or have any other queries concerning the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk in the first instance.

Attendance:

- Members of the Committee are required to attend in person and be present in the meeting room. Only these Members are able to move/ second or amend motions, and vote.
- Other Members of the Council can join via MS Teams and can take part in any discussion and ask questions, when invited to do so by the Chair, but cannot move/ second or amend motions or vote on any matters. Members participating remotely are reminded that this does not count towards their formal committee attendance.
- Occasionally, Members of the Committee are unable to attend in person and may join via MS Teams in the same way as other Members. However, they are unable to move/ second or amend motions or vote on any matters if they are not present in the meeting room. As with other Members joining via MS Teams, this does not count towards their formal committee attendance.
- Officers can participate in person or online.

- Members of the public addressing an Area Planning Committee should attend in person. However, arrangements to participate online can be considered in certain circumstances. Please contact committee.services@tmbc.gov.uk for further information.

Before formal proceedings start there will be a sound check of Members/Officers in the room. This is done as a roll call and confirms attendance of voting Members.

Ground Rules:

The meeting will operate under the following ground rules:

- Members in the Chamber should indicate to speak in the usual way and use the fixed microphones in front of them. These need to be switched on when speaking or comments will not be heard by those participating online. Please switch off microphones when not speaking.
- If there any technical issues the meeting will be adjourned to try and rectify them. If this is not possible there are a number of options that can be taken to enable the meeting to continue. These will be explained if it becomes necessary.

For those Members participating online:

- please request to speak using the 'chat or hand raised function';
- please turn off cameras and microphones when not speaking;
- please do not use the 'chat function' for other matters as comments can be seen by all;
- Members may wish to blur the background on their camera using the facility on Microsoft teams.
- Please avoid distractions and general chat if not addressing the meeting
- Please remember to turn off or silence mobile phones

Voting:

Voting may be undertaken by way of a roll call and each Member should verbally respond For, Against, Abstain. The vote will be noted and announced by the Democratic Services Officer.

Alternatively, votes may be taken by general affirmation if it seems that there is agreement amongst Members. The Chairman will announce the outcome of the vote for those participating and viewing online.

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Declarations of interest

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 7th February, 2024

Present: Cllr S A Hudson (Chair), Cllr A G Bennison, Cllr S Crisp, Cllr G B Hines, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr J R S Lark, Cllr A McDermott, Cllr Mrs A S Oakley, Cllr W E Palmer, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr Mrs M Tatton, Cllr K S Tunstall and Cllr C J Williams (substitute).

In attendance: Councillors R P Betts, M A Coffin and D Keers were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Virtual: Councillor M D Boughton, R W Dalton and K B Tanner participated via MS Teams in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Bell (Vice-Chair).

PART 1 – PUBLIC

CE 24/1 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Notification of a substitute member was recorded as set out below:

- Cllr C Williams substituted for Cllr S Bell

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 17.5 to 17.9 this councillor had the same rights as the ordinary member of the committee for whom they were substituting.

CE 24/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

CE 24/3 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee held on 6 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

CE 24/4 RECYCLING BRING SITES

The report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services provided an update in respect of the current recycling bring sites. Since the introduction of the new recycling services in October 2019, use of all sites had reduced significantly as had been anticipated.

Members noted that the overall tonnage of most of the materials which were now collected from kerbside had reduced significantly and continued to reduce with the roll out of the communal recycling service. In 2022/23, bring site materials accounted for around 2% of all recycling collected, compared with 14% in 2018/19.

Consideration was given to a number of options detailed in the report and particular attention was given to whether the textile and/or charity banks should be retained. On balance, the Committee felt that there were sufficient alternative options for residents to recycle textiles, such as local charity shops. It was also felt that retaining these banks could encourage fly tipping when they were full.

RECOMMENDATION*: That all remaining sites be removed due to the reasons detailed at section 1.2 of the report.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 24/5 FIXED PENALTY NOTICES - LITTERING & FLY TIPPING OFFENCES

(Decision Notice D240016MEM)

In July 2023, as part of its Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, the UK Government laid down a Statutory Instrument to increase the levels of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and fly tipping and guidance confirmed that the fees should be set at an appropriate level to reflect local circumstances, including local ability to pay. The Council's current level of fees was set at the previous maximum amounts as set by Government.

Consideration was given to the options outlined in the report for Fixed Penalty Notice levels for littering and fly tipping. It was noted that if two levels of Fixed Penalty Notice charges for littering were created, this would ensure that the maximum deterrent was available to the Council whilst retaining the ability to take into account the severity of the offence, impact on the environment and the relative cost to the taxpayer of clearing up the litter/fly tip. Furthermore, two levels of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering offences would also ensure that the consequences

were proportionate to the offence, as per the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy.

RECOMMENDED*: That two levels of Fixed Penalty Notice charges for littering be introduced and that the one level of charges for fly tipping be retained, with an increase in charges as set out in Option 4 at 1.4.4 of the report.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 24/6 REVIEW OF PEST CONTROL SERVICE

The report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health outlined the current provision in respect of pest control and set out a number of options from November 2024.

Details of the cost of providing the service for the last three full financial years and the estimated increased cost of the current one year contract extension was provided together with the position across Kent local authorities. Members were reminded that it was not a statutory requirement for the Borough Council to provide a pest control service.

Careful consideration was given to the 'pros and cons' of the three options detailed in the report, the financial and value for money considerations and whether subsidised treatments should be provided for those residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.

RECOMMENDED*: That a pest control service where residents could be referred to and agreed treatments subsidised for those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction within an agreed annual maximum cost to the Borough Council from November 2024 (Option 3) be tendered for.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 24/7 CONSULTATION DRAFT - TONBRIDGE RACECOURSE SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Decision Notice D240017MEM)

The Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services sought Member comment on the draft Management Plan for Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground prior to formal public consultation.

Members noted that the existing five-year Management Plan expired in December 2023, and therefore needed to be reviewed and updated for the next five years. The draft Plan was intended to provide guidance and direction for the management of the Sportsground and be used to inform future maintenance and development of the site.

Particular reference was made to the Plan having been developed in line with the criteria of the Green Flag Award, a national standard for parks and open spaces, and Members noted that a section of the Plan dealt specifically with environmental management of the site which was a key criterion for the Award.

RECOMMENDED*: That the draft Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan, attached at Annex 1, be taken forward for public consultation.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 24/8 TADDINGTON VALLEY - WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Decision Notice D240018MEM)

Consideration was given to the comments received as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft Taddington Valley Woodland Management Plan and proposed amendments to enable the Plan to be submitted to the Forestry Commission for approval. The draft Plan was intended to provide guidance and direction for all aspects of the management of the woodland and be used to inform future maintenance and development of the site.

Particular reference was made to the core part of the Plan which was the nature recovery by regeneration of the woodland using coppicing and pollarding of trees where appropriate, however the Plan also covered many aspects of the site's management including community engagement.

RECOMMENDED*: That the draft Taddington Valley Woodland Management Plan, attached at Annex 1, be submitted to the Forestry Commission for formal adoption, subject to the incorporation of the proposed amendments listed at Annex 3 to the report.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CE 24/9 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Members received a list of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that were relevant to the committee. The KPIs would be monitored on a quarterly-annual basis and would be made available on an ongoing basis.

CE 24/10 WORK PROGRAMME 2024

The Work Programme setting out matters to be scrutinised during 2024 was attached for information. Members were invited to suggest future matters by liaising with the Chair of the Committee.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

CE 24/11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no matters considered in private.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

22 May 2024

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Corporate Monitoring

1 CORPORATE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

This report provides data on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are aligned to the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 and monitored on a quarterly or annual basis. The data provided in this report relates to the period up to the end of March 2024. The main headlines show a number of positive trends in particular relating to attendance at our leisure facilities, referrals to our One You Service, Anti-Social Behaviour cases and waste collection. Conversely, there have been negative trends in relation to fly tipping instances and recycling and composting rates.

1.1 Overview of KPIs

1.1.1 The aligned KPIs are provided in **Appendix 1**, with the data for January – March 2024 representing the most up-to-date available statistics in most instances. However, due to the lag in some statistics and the very tight turnaround in this quarter, the previous quarter does still represent the most up to date figures.

1.1.2 There are some quarterly **trends** that can be identified and highlighted in this report. These include:

Positive Trends:

- **003:** Total attendance at our leisure facilities reached 1,325,233 by the end of Q4, which is 11.2% higher than the same time last year.
- **004:** The number of clients referred to the One You Service increased to 194 in Q4, getting closer to the target of 200 referrals per quarter.
- **005:** The total number of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) cases dropped to 65 in Q4 meaning that the target of under 350 cases per annum was met (328 in 2023/24)
- **006:** The total number of victim-based crimes dropped markedly to 1,690 in Q4. This was not quite enough of a drop to meet the target of under 7,500 crimes per annum (7,621 in 2023/24)

- **115-118:** The KPIs relating to Waste Services have shown positive trends, with 100% of scheduled collections completed in Q4. The most recent data for complaints and individual collections missed (Q3) all show improvement.

Negative Trends:

- **024:** The % of household waste sent for recycling and composting dropped to 47.54% in Q3. However, the average for Q1-3 was 50% which compares to 49% in the same period of 2022/23.
- **029:** The number of fly tipping incidents increased to 257 in Q4, resulting in an 11% increase in 2024/25 in comparison to the previous financial year. Despite this increase, it should be noted that the borough continues to perform well in comparison to other areas of Kent.

1.1.3 Looking beyond these recent trends and giving consideration to the entirety of 2023/24, Tables 1 and 2 show the trends for the Corporate KPIs and the 'other' KPIs over the course of the financial year..

1.1.4 Through the use of a traffic lights system progress on each of the KPIs is set out. Where a KPI is monitored on an annual basis, the quarter within which the KPI is monitored is coloured with the other quarters in grey. Where the KPI is coloured entirely in grey, this indicates that either:

- The data has not been made available
- The data has been made available but it is not possible to put a positive or negative value on the trend, as they are predominantly responding to demand.

KPI Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Frequency	Trend over 2023/24			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
001	% of due food safety inspections undertaken (Risk Category A-C)	Quarterly	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
002	% of due food safety inspections undertaken (Risk Category D-E)	Quarterly	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
003	Total attendance at LLC/AC/TSP/PWGC (cumulative for year by quarter)	Quarterly	Green	Green	Green	Green
004	Number of clients referred into the One You service	Quarterly	Red	Red	Red	Green

005	Total number of ASB cases	Quarterly	Red	Red	Green	Green
006	Total number of victim-based crimes	Quarterly	Red	Red	Green	Green
007	No. of red flags on our annual safeguarding self-assessment framework (SAF) and Section 11 audit.	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Yellow
021	T&M carbon dioxide emissions data (tCO2e)	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
022	TMBC annual carbon audit emissions data (tCO2e)	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
023	<i>Biodiversity KPI - TBC</i>	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
024	% of household waste sent for recycling and composting	Quarterly	Green	Green	Red	Grey
025	Number of contaminated land enquiries	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
026	Total number of service requests leading to investigation	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
027	Number of enforcement notices served	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
028	No. of AQMA's in T&M (currently 6) where NO2 results exceed the National Air Quality objective for which they were declared	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Yellow
029	Number of fly tip incidents	Quarterly	Red	Green	Green	Red
030	Total attendance at LLC/AC/TSP/PWGC (duplicate - see 003)	Quarterly	Green	Green	Green	Green
031	No of parks with Green Flag status	Annually	Grey	Grey	Grey	Yellow

Table 1: Corporate KPIs

- 1.1.5 It should also be noted that a number of the KPIs marked as amber are not showing an upward trend as they already are consistently performing to a high standard. This is particularly the case with 001 and 002 (food safety inspections); 007 (safeguarding) and 031 (Green Flag status).
- 1.1.6 As shown in Table 2, there has been consistent improvement in the performance of waste services since Q1 of 2023/24, resulting in higher collection rates and lower numbers of complaints.

KPI Ref	Key Performance Indicator	Frequency	Trend over 2023/24			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
115	% completion of scheduled collections	Quarterly	Red	Green	Green	Green
116	Number of formal complaints received - collections	Quarterly	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Grey
117	Number of formal complaints received - street cleansing	Quarterly	Red	Green	Green	Grey
118	% of individual collections missed (waste)	Quarterly	Red	Green	Green	Grey

Table 2: Other KPIs

1.2 Recent Internal Audit

- 1.2.1 In March 2024, the Corporate Performance Management Framework Internal Audit Report was completed. This report gave an audit opinion of **Substantial** based on a number of identified strengths in the framework, and identified one area for development, namely to ensure that the KPIs are used to their maximum potential and help to give direction to the Council where needed.
- 1.2.2 Despite this, the prospects for improvement were stated as **Very Good** on the basis that LGInform Plus will allow the council to assess its performance against other authorities and that previously raised issues regarding data assurance and benchmarking have already been addressed.

1.3 Benchmarking

- 1.3.1 Since the previous reporting round, a number of additional KPIs are now benchmarked using LGInform Plus. This helps to provide additional context when considering our performance, although it should be noted that sometimes direct comparison is not straightforward.
- 1.3.2 There are still a number of KPIs that are not benchmarked. Some of these will never be easily benchmarked either because they are difficult to compare in a meaningful way or because, even with LGInform Plus, the comparable data isn't available. However, further work will be undertaken during 2024 to further embed benchmarking into the reporting process.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The matters set out in this briefing note are considered routine or uncontroversial and a legal opinion has not been sought.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The Corporate Key Performance Indicators are administered, analysed and reported in-house.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 Performance Management is identified in the Strategic Risk Register and currently assessed as a medium risk with a positive direction of travel. Within the register it is highlighted that without an effective performance management framework in place, the authority will not be able to understand any required improvements or achieve value for money.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 The Corporate Key Performance Indicators are aligned to the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027, and aim to provide data and analysis about the performance of the authority and support its improvement.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Jeremy Whittaker,
Strategic Economic
Regeneration Manager

Adrian Stanfield
Interim Chief Executive

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Appendix 1 – KPIs January – March 2024 (Q4)

CS Priority Action	Ref. No.	Aligned KPI	Lead	BASELINE				SSC	2023/24				Target/Aspiration 2023/24	TREND	Data Assurance	BENCHMARKING			Source	Explanatory Comments
				Value	Date	Frequency	Source		Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar				Value	Date	Comparator		
Promote well-being and help people live healthy and active lifestyles.	001	% of due food safety inspections undertaken (Risk Category A-C)	MH	33 due/47 done	Jan-Mar 2023	Quarterly	SSRS Reports from IDOX Uniform	CESSC	30 due/34 done	37 due/45 done	26 due/39 done	37 due/57 done	100% of due inspections undertaken	↑	Yes	TBC	TBC	TBC	Food Standards Agency	One inspection A-C still due 31/03/24
	002	% of due food safety inspections undertaken (Risk Category D-E)	MH	49 due/85 done	Jan-Mar 2023	Quarterly	SSRS Reports from IDOX Uniform	CESSC	45 due/91 done	83 due/74 done	81 due/63 done	127 due/104 done	100% of due inspections undertaken	↑	Yes	TBC	TBC	TBC	Food Standards Agency	Zero inspections D-E due 31/03/24
	003	Total attendance at LLC/AC/TSP/P WGC (cumulative for year by quarter)	SG	1,191,704	2022/23	Quarterly	TMLT Management System	CESSC	347,928	679,664	975,127	1,325,233	1.3m	↑	Yes	TBC	TBC	TBC	TMLT/ Sport England	11.2% higher than previous year.
	004	Number of clients referred into the One You service	CP	214	Jan-Mar 2023	Quarterly	ReferAll OYWK	CESSC	199	170	124	194	200 per quarter	↑				N/A	Still fell slightly below the 200 target this quarter, but a large increase from Q3.	
Through key partnership working with Kent Police and other partners, support residents and ensure safeguarding is an integral part of council activity.	005	Total number of ASB cases	AF	78	Jan-Mar 2023	Quarterly	ASB Database	CESSC	94	98	71	65	Under 350 per annum	↑				N/A	328 in total so target exceeded.	
	006	Total number of victim-based crimes	AF	1,894	Jan-Mar 2023	Quarterly	Kent Police	CESSC	1,972	1,988	1,971	1,690	Under 7,500 per annum	↑		6,801 (S); 12,910 (M) and 6,781 (TW)	Total Year (2023)	S'oaks, M'stone and TW	LGInform Plus	Total of 7,621, so despite drop in Q4, target just missed.
	007	No. of red flags on our annual safeguarding self-assessment framework (SAF) and Section 11 audit.	GF	0	2022	Annually	Annual SAF	CESSC	0	0	0	0	0	→	Yes	TBC	TBC	TBC	KCC	

				BASELINE				SSC	2023/24				Target/ Aspiration 2023/24	TREND	Data Assurance	BENCHMARKING			Source	Explanatory Comments
CS Priority Action	Ref. No.	Aligned KPI	Lead	Value	Date	Frequency	Source		Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan- Mar				Value	Date	Compa rator		
Deliver climate change plans which focus on cutting emissions and increasing biodiversity.	021	T&M carbon dioxide emissions data (tCO2e)	CS	816.4	2021	Annually	BEIS - CO2 Emissions Statistics	CESSC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	675 tCO2e		Yes	849.5 – M'stone Borough; 811.3 – S'oaks District; 479.8 - TW Borough	2021	Adjoini ng Authori ties	gov.uk	Per capita amounts - Sevenoaks - 6.7; T&M - 6.2; Maidstone - 4.8; TW - 4.1
	022	TMBC annual carbon audit emissions data (tCO2e)	CS	3.3	2022/23	Annually	Primary Research /gov.uk	CESSC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.1	→	Yes				N/A	
Deliver climate change plans which focus on cutting emissions and increasing biodiversity.	023	<i>Biodiversity KPI - TBC</i>	<i>CS/JK</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>Annually</i>	<i>TBC</i>	<i>CESSC</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>TBC</i>						<i>N/A</i>	
Build on our track record of recycling more than anywhere else in Kent.	024	% of household waste sent for recycling and composting	DCL	51.6	2020/21 (audited)	Quarterly	Waste Data Flow (DEFRA)	CESSC	52.49	52.73	47.54	N/A	55%	↓	Yes	47.5% (TW) and 36.6% (Sevenoaks)	2020/21 (audited)	TW and Sevenoaks	Waste Data Flow (DEFRA)	Finalised Q3 data awaited from KCC. Average for Q1-3 is 50% compared to 49% in same period of 2022/23.
Improve environmental quality in the borough by tackling sources of pollution.	025	Number of contaminated land enquiries.	CK	6	2022/23	Annually	EP Database	CESSC	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	Reactive to need						N/A	Q4 figure relates to the whole year (2023/24)
	026	Total number of service requests leading to investigation	CK	518	2022/23	Annually	Reports from IDOX	CESSC	N/A	N/A	N/A	499	Reactive to need						N/A	Q4 figure relates to the whole year (2023/24)
	027	Number of enforcement notices served	CK	8	2022/23	Annually	EP Notices Register	CESSC	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	Reactive to need						N/A	Q4 figure relates to the whole year (2023/24)

				BASELINE				2023/24				Target/ Aspirati on 2023/24	TREND	Data Assurance	BENCHMARKING			Source	Explanatory Comments	
CS Priority Action	Ref. No.	Aligned KPI	Lead	Value	Date	Frequency	Source	SSC	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec				Jan-Mar	Value	Date			Compa rator
Improve environmental quality in the borough by tackling sources of pollution.	028	No. of AQMA's in T&M (currently 6) where NO2 results exceed the National Air Quality objective for which they were declared	CK	1	2022	Annually	Annual Status Report (ASR)	CESSC	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0	→				N/A		
	029	Number of fly tip incidents	DCL	836	2022/23	Quarterly	Waste Data Flow (DEFRA)	CESSC	259	244	183	257	5% reduction	→		2,391 (MBC); 2,148 (GBC); 801 (SDC); TWBC (721)	2022/23	Adjoining LAs	LGInform Plus	11% increase (although includes some multiple reports of same fly tips). Despite this TMBC ranked 4 th lowest in the county in terms of incidents reported, but 2 nd highest in terms of FPNs issued overall and highest in terms of number of FPNs issued per fly during Q1-3.
Continue our successful management of parks, open spaces and leisure centres.	030	Total attendance at LLC/AC/TSP/PW GC (duplicate - see 3)	SG	1,191, 704	Apr-Jun 2022	Quarterly	TMLT Management System	CESSC	347,928	679,664	975,127	1,325,233	1.3m	↑	Yes	TBC	TBC	TBC	TMLT/ Sport England	11.2% higher than last year
	031	No of parks with Green Flag status	JF	3	Jun-22	Annually	Green Flag Award website	CESSC	3	3	3	3	3	→	Yes	48	Sep-23	Kent and Medway	N/A	4 Green Parks in the borough (3 owned by TMBC and Manor Park in West Malling)

Additional KPIs:

Ref. No.	Aligned KPI	Lead	Value	Date	Frequency	Source	SCC	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Target/Aspiration 2023/24	TREND	Data Assurance	Value	Date	Comparator	Source	Explanatory Comments
Waste Services																			
115	% completion of scheduled collections	DCL	97.80%	2022/23	Quarterly	Whitespace Analytics	CESSC	97.50%	99.40%	99.9%	100%	99.0%	↑		TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
116	Number of formal complaints received - collections	DCL	274	2022/23	Quarterly	Whitespace Analytics	CESSC	47	48	37	N/A	10% reduction	↑		TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	Q1-3 totals 132 formal complaints.
117	Number of formal complaints received - street cleansing	DCL	29	2022/23	Quarterly	Whitespace Analytics	CESSC	14	7	3	N/A	10% reduction	↑		TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
118	% of individual collections missed (waste)	DCL	0.00%	2022/23	Quarterly	Whitespace Analytics	CESSC	0.20%	0.15%	0.11%	N/A	Under 0.2%	↑	Yes				N/A	

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

22 May 2024

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet – Non Key Decision

1 GRAFFITI UPDATE

This report provides an update on the work to tackle graffiti in the borough, including feedback from the public consultation and also on the development of a graffiti policy.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will remember that in November, an initial report was discussed in relation to how the council tackles graffiti. This set out the Council's current approach to removing graffiti and proposed the development of a graffiti policy and a public consultation to gather views in relation to a 'graffiti wall'.

1.1.2 These items have now been undertaken and this report provides feedback on these matters to Members.

1.2 Results of the graffiti survey

1.2.1 The public consultation in relation to graffiti was open from 22 January to 29 February 2024, and we received 115 responses. A copy of the replies can be seen at **Annex 1**.

1.2.2 Of those who replied, 105 had seen graffiti in the borough and 78 of those were concerned about this. We then asked people's views on whether they would like to see a graffiti wall in the borough. Of those who replied 57 stated they would, 47 would not and 11 did not know. Comments in relation to this included:

"I would only want them if they are a proved deterrent from graffiti appearing across the town."

"It will still be an eye sore, and it will be unfair if it is put up near a local business or homes. Even if put up in an area like a park it will just be an eye sore."

"In theory it sounds like a good idea. It just depends on where it is, how well it is painted and how it is maintained and/or refreshed".

- 1.2.3 In order to look at whether a graffiti wall was something that we would want in Tonbridge & Malling, I consulted with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council who have a graffiti mural wall in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park. This has been in place for around seven years and is managed by the park's Friends Group and the Borough Council. The wall is used by graffiti artists, who generally create art, rather than just tagging. The wall looks after itself, with a group of artists refreshing the artwork periodically. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council could not evidence whether the use of their graffiti mural wall had led to a reduction in graffiti tags across the rest of the town.
- 1.2.4 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council do monitor the wall during normal park visits, and they have a park keeper on site who reports anything offensive or considered controversial or political. They have only had one incident that needed action in the seven years the wall has been in place.
- 1.2.5 I did ask other county colleagues if they had used graffiti walls. Canterbury City Council were the only other location to come back to me. They have not used graffiti walls but have used graffiti murals to cover up areas where they had previously had graffiti reported, such as underpasses and empty buildings. They found that the graffiti murals were well received and had not, to date, been graffitied over. However, there was a cost implication to this. They were able to fund this work through Welcome Back Funding (Covid related funding).
- 1.2.6 Evidence as to whether graffiti walls are effective is difficult to source, however, an EnCams report (*'Good Graffiti, Bad Graffiti? A new approach to an Old Problem, 2008'*) carried out case studies into established graffiti walls across the county. Their research suggested that graffiti walls were more likely to succeed if the initiative was rooted in the community, particularly amongst young people. The most successful examples of graffiti walls were those that were managed by young people and subsequently adopted by the council. However, they found that it was extremely difficult to measure the success of graffiti walls in terms of reducing the wider graffiti problem.
- 1.2.7 Graffiti murals on the other hand, do seem to have a positive impact on an area though and research shows that murals can reduce instances of vandalism. One reason might be potential community involvement in mural projects, which fosters local pride and ownership feelings over public spaces.
- 1.2.8 Whilst the Council may wish to consider the establishment of a graffiti wall, officers do have concerns around these. There are concerns around identifying the correct location for a wall, there would be a need to check for inappropriate or offensive graffiti and concerns around who would then be responsible for managing and maintaining the walls and any associated costs with this. It is also not known at present, whether a graffiti wall would help to reduce incidents of tagging within an area and therefore members may feel that further information would be needed before a decision can be taken.

1.3 Graffiti policy

- 1.3.1 Following on from the last report we have now drafted the attached Graffiti policy at **Annex 2**. The proposed policy attempts to provide residents and businesses with clarity as to responsibilities for graffiti clearance and deliver a graffiti removal service that is efficient and sustainable within the resources and budget allocation.
- 1.3.2 Any offensive graffiti on property owned by the Council will be removed within two working days and anything non-offensive on property owned by the Council will be removed in ten working days.
- 1.3.3 The council does not have a statutory duty to remove graffiti on privately owned property. The owner/tenant of the property will be required to arrange removal by either themselves or a third-party contractor.
- 1.3.4 Where appropriate we will look to link in with Community Payback to see if they can assist in removing graffiti from privately owned property.

1.4 Removing graffiti

- 1.4.1 The Council is continuing to remove graffiti from its own property (as set out in our policy). Between November and the end of April there were 8 incidents of graffiti noted and removed directly by Technical Services. In the last 6 months Leisure have removed 19 instances of graffiti on our land and Waste Services have received 17 reports of graffiti so far during 2024.
- 1.4.2 We are working with Community Payback to remove graffiti from privately owned property. However, whilst we have nominated three graffiti locations to be removed, unfortunately none of these could be progressed due to health and safety concerns due to the specific location of the graffiti and the potential risks to the workers. However, we are continuing to work with Community Payback when we get reports sent into us and hope that they will be able to remove graffiti in due course.
- 1.4.3 I have also been able to purchase a number of graffiti removal kits. Three of these kits are kept at the Kings Hill offices and three at Tonbridge Castle. They can be used by officers and Members if required. If Members would like to use the kits from Tonbridge Castle, then please contact me and I will let the Castle know. Any graffiti removed from privately owned property would need the owner's permission first.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 There is no legal requirement for the Council to remove graffiti, however Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that it is a legal duty for all local authorities to consider the impact of their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their area. This means that Local Authorities have to do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.6.1 There will be a financial impact if Members decide to establish a graffiti wall. These costs are not known currently and would require further investigation.

1.7 Risk Assessment

1.7.1 Any appropriate risk assessments would be carried out. If a graffiti wall(s) was to be implemented then this would require its own risk assessment(s) to be completed.

1.8 Equality Impact Assessment

1.8.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.9 Policy Considerations

1.9.1 Waste Services, Community Safety

1.10 Recommendations

1.10.1 That Members note this report and the lack of evidence of the effectiveness of graffiti walls to reduce illegal tagging.

1.10.2 That Members adopt the Graffiti Policy as attached at Annex 2.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Alison Finch
Safer & Stronger Communities
Manager

Adrian Stanfield
Interim Chief Executive

Results from the graffiti consultation

The consultation asked respondents for their views on graffiti within the borough and also asked for views on the use of graffiti walls.

The consultation was open from 22 January to 29 February 2024, and we received 115 responses.

1. Have you seen any graffiti in the borough

Yes: 105

No: 8

Don't know: 2

2. If so, are you concerned about this?

Yes: 78

No: 27

Don't know: 7

3. The Borough Council is working to tackle this issue and as part of this we are considering the use of graffiti walls. Graffiti walls are an area which can be legally used to do graffiti. These differ from street art which is generally more visually appealing. Would you be happy to see graffiti walls used in the borough?

Yes: 57

No: 47

Don't know: 11

4. If you answered 'no' or 'don't know' to the question above, why was this?
Please explain below:

"Because some of the graffiti in Tonbridge was obscene and it will only encourage this to be done under the guise of art".

"Graffiti walls encourage tagging which will spread to areas around the wall. It would be naive to think those doing it would stick to the allocated areas".

"It won't deter graffiti on other surfaces".

"I am unconvinced that an 'approved' wall will reduce graffiti. It may appeal to 'taggers' who are interested in the artistic value, but will that include all people who spray walls?"

"It makes everywhere look disgusting, would this wall be tucked away from the main town"

"It will make people think it is ok to deface buildings in this way"

"One man's waste is another man's treasure. The same is said for art.

*Clearly the tags are not visual appealing to 99% of people and to allow one allows all! It opens up for people to carry paint and pens to carry out tags elsewhere on a whim. The Waitrose supermarket in tonbridge still says c**t on the side after numerous cleans. Graffiti needs to be discouraged not encouraged"*

"There will still be graffiti elsewhere as well as on the wall"

"Allowing some graffiti will lead to more in other areas"

"It will still be an eye saw and it will be unfair if it is put up near a local business or homes. Even if put up in an area like a park it will just be an eye saw."

"Would prefer a proper street art wall"

"I would only want them if they are a proved deterrent from graffiti appearing across the town."

"Look awful i never let my kids draw on my walls at home so why on walls outside?"

"It would depend on where they are and what evidence there is that they would deter people from graffitiing anywhere and everywhere"

"The issue is there is too much graffiti in the borough. Graffiti walls will introduce and legitimise graffiti in the borough. Rather than a solution it maintains the status quo. I am sceptical that graffiti walls will reduce overall graffiti as such individuals have a demonstrable willingness to subvert norms and break the law. I see no reason why they wouldn't continue to graffiti as before. A better solution would be CCTV and action from law enforcement. Graffiti is unbecoming of a rural borough like Tonbridge and Malling."

"Allowing it legally just raises the likelihood that more people will get into it and if that's the case Tonbridge will look like the trainline into Victoria before long"

"It's an eyesore & just encourages more graffiti"

"This would entice others to tag other property when there was no access to such a wall."

"Mural walls give licence to others to paint as they think it is acceptable."

"Why not run a club for graffiti and art in the angel centre,"

"I detest graffiti and it is an invitation to crime. It just looks awful especially in rural or suburban areas. I would be horrified to see any in beautiful West Malling or environs. Totally out of keeping."

"No it degrades the area. Also encourages other antisocial behaviour. Extension rebellion is spraying its logo on the train approach and bin outside the foresters. They are also fly posting every month on bus stops and empty shops on the high st. Pls prosecute them"

"Because that is not art, it is just doodling and showing off a fancy signature, i.e. Ugly self promotion!"

"Why encourage it? And doesn't this contradict the law in not selling aerosols to youths? Or are you planning to give them aerosols and hope they will only use "graffiti walls"? Which are an eyesore as well..."

"Don't encourage them! This is not art, it is extremely ugly."

"A wall with graffiti art - maybe commissioned locally to engage young people from schools/youth clubs, that felt engaging and meaningful to TMBC and our community could be a powerful and engaging piece of art. Would a graffiti wall be essentially TMBC owned walls that would be set aside as an outlet? Or would walls like the sides of businesses CEX or the side of Poundsnd etc be left? Personally these are spaces which can look grotty and so the tags and graffiti create a more negative environment. I would want businesses to ensure graffiti is painted over and these walls kept clean or they are candidates for street art (associated with the business). Generally people don't tag over street art."

"I understand the theory of why to provide them, but I worry they may also encourage an uptick in graffiti in the nearby surrounding region if not handled correctly. If a suitable site is found near youth oriented facilities but not too close I may support them."

"Yes if it keeps graffiti away from other areas and keeps them graffiti free."

"Makes the area look like an inner city slum."

"Providing a wall for people to graffiti is not dealing with the issue of it being an illegal activity. I would equate it to the absurdity of councillors picking up other people's litter on a regular basis. Also allowing people to paint freely on certain walls in the town could lead to there being more examples like the dreadful example that blights the wall next to the public toilets in Priory Road."

"These sort of things are normally only seen in inner city urban development and are not suitable for our rural countryside and they look horrible."

"We have a lot of Antisocial Behaviour in our area, and graffiti already on the hoardings next to Hillsong Church. It's started!! We do not want it to spread."

"A graffiti wall will not stop graffiti. It's done to be antisocial not as a piece of art for people to enjoy. It makes the area look so deprived."

"I answered yes, but it's yes with serious caveats - commission local artists to get the ball rolling on this wall and set a high standard that values skill and creativity.

Signage to make it clear what the wall is for helpful, as would having a webpage dedicated to displaying monthly photos of the wall's changing landscape. It'd also be good for everyone to know they can use the wall at any time but if they get in touch they can be credited on the webpage - therefore it becomes a portfolio opportunity for them. Basically, I think for best results some degree of active management is key."

"I'm not sure, depends where the walls are"

"In theory it sounds like a good idea. It just depends on where it is, how well it is painted and how it is maintained and/or refreshed"

"Graffiti is an act of vandalism and as such should not be encouraged. Street Art however is totally different and I would welcome considered street art"

"It does nothing for the high street or town it's anti social behaviour and needs to be stopped! we need more police patrolling the town. Youths just hanging about and messing about on there bikes doing wheelies on the footpath!"

"All graffiti should be stopped; any selective permission at any site would be seen as general encouragement and appeasement (appeasement or partial tolerance well just look at Hitler!)"

"i haven;t seen evidence (research) to know weather designating specific spaces to graffiti works. Surely this just moves the problem to another area of town."

"Complete waste of time, unless this can be manned at all times. People will not stick to the allocated wall, therefore it will not solve the problem at all in fact it will only exasperate it even more."

"Graffiti is unsightly and looks untidy, why should tax payers have to pay for this when money could be spent elsewhere."

"Not in the many historic and rural villages and towns. Other than that...I think graffiti walls can be very interesting...omitting foul language."

"graffiti has no place in our community and encouraging this scourge by having an approved wall is completely wrong"

5. If you have any further comments or have any ideas how we can tackle graffiti please give these below:

"Have a dedicated removal team who are proactive and remove within 24 hours of reporting"

"Heavier fines will help, Tonbridge has cameras everywhere"

"I would love to see a graffiti wall in Tonbridge, generally people tagging respect these and don't paint over them (e.g. Grovesner Park in Tunbridge Wells). More murals like the one in Barden would be good too. Perhaps tmbc could talk to businesses like Cook and CeX about getting some high quality street art on the side of their buildings? Could be gaming themed on CeX or food themed on Cook (as both these businesses have a problem with tagging on their side). If you do find a good central location for a main street art wall you should kick-start it by getting some respected local graffiti artists to help create it"

"Just leave it unless it is offensive"

"Catch and Prosecute the offenders"

"The fact that you are considering a graffiti wall is beyond me - spend the money on CCTV or perhaps sporting facilities. Glorifying the likes of Banksy in the media does not help this issue. It's graffiti not art and no one asked for it! What's next? a used chewing gum wall because a small minority of people think that's ok. TMBC get on with making positive changes not negative ones!"

"I don't think a graffiti wall will resolve the issue of increased graffiti as those who do it are mostly off their faces on drugs sold in the area."

"Remove it / paint over it all as soon as possible... if the graffiti artists see that it will be promptly removed then the cost of the paint is wasted. There is a lot alongside M20 between J4 and J5 and there is some on A228 in tunnel below A20."

"Need more people to clean it up when it is first spotted. As the more that is left up the more people will do it again and again. Need more CCTV."

"It's the tags on the green broadband boxes that is the worst- so pointless and looks awful."

"Some people think that it is art - I disagree - and believe it is criminal damage. Tonbridge like many towns locally and nationally which are blighted by the problem - there are so many eyesores in the town. The unfinished building on the corner of Avebury Avenue and River Lawn Road - the former Poundland store - and the former Beales site - graffiti only adds to the them."

"Graffiti is criminal damage. Treat it as such"

"Love a graffiti wall! Let's encourage creativity in our towns."

"Tagging awful. Good graffiti and planned street art can be amazing and should be promoted"

"It's unsightly and makes the area look rough. It needs clamping down on without glorifying it"

"Stiffer penalties for those found committing the offence of criminal damage by graffiti and educating young people through a schools programme as to the perils of causing graffiti in their locality."

"Police need to crackdown on those carrying it out, rapid clean up response to existing graffiti, better measures to tackle graffiti on third party land"

"CCTV in known spots to catch perpetrators and heavy fines"

"Get those serving community sentences to remove it."

"Have schedule to overpaint the wall every say two months to provide a blank canvas regularly, black, white, silver whatever, change it each time, and have the artwork documented for archive and to show on a website. There are loads of photographers in Tonbridge who would help out with that. Maybe an annual residents vote for the best artwork?"

"The Angel Centre being in the central location of Tonbridge is an ideal place to run an art and graffiti club"

"This is one of the areas of least concern for the local area and money should not be spent on this while other services are stripped back and assets sold off."

"Public floggings. Taser. Or more usefully put the brats in chain gangs to litter pick in dresses and livestream on TikTok."

"Personally I appreciate graffiti street art! There are some fantastic examples all over the world! It's when it's just a tag, randomly made, that it becomes annoying."

"Put temporary cameras on the most blighted areas then you can find the people, show them on social media, identify them and then prosecute them or their parents"

"The graffiti all along the riverbank on the walls of Wharf House have been there for two years now, and nothing is being done. We had quite a bit of correspondence with Matt Broughton at the time, when he was the local councillor. At the time, he said that TMBC have a dedicated graffiti removal specialist, but they could not clean those because the building is privately owned. I hope that the owners are being actively pursued to get the job done, because the view along the river from Big Bridge is completely ruined!"

"Enforce sale restrictions, put police back on the streets to deter graffiti and other crime and give local kids something to do that keeps them busy and off the streets"

"There has been an awful lot of ugly graffiti on the wall of Wharf House by the river, for over two years now. Matt Broughton said two years ago that he was working on getting it removed, but nothing has happened. This graffiti is very obvious, and ugly, from Big Bridge - it makes our town look ugly, and it makes me ashamed."

"Build more around the skate park and encourage them to graffiti the ground of the skate park(s) The SP in TW in Culverden is covered and it looks amazing."

"It's shocking in and around Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells etc. we moved in from Bromley over a year ago who seemed rigorous in their approach, it wasn't noticeable at all. I'm very much in the camp that graffiti is a blot and a stain on the visual appearance of a community and the negative connotations it brings are unwarranted. More effort needs to be given to clear it away quickly every time, it shouldn't be for residents to report what is clearly there for all to see before action is considered. More rigorous rectification and enforcement is needed."

"Bromley have "street friends" people who are happy to hold a supply of council provided paint or graffiti removal kits to swiftly remove graffiti. When graffiti is swiftly removed it is less appealing to do. Prompt removal combined with a graffiti wall seems like a sensible balanced approach."

"Some graffiti is actually very good. There are places in London and even France that have specific Graffiti safe walls. There are signs that clearly state its ok to spray there so there is no confusion. I think the community would rather not see it in or near the high street but local parks with lots of land is a great place to have a graffiti safe wall. Times are changing, as is the style of art, the things we wear, the electrical gadgets we use. We should embrace these changes but in the right way and by supplying graffiti walls to prevent damage to property and making the high street untidy."

"Graffiti work shops are great I would like to see these run in leisure centres, it educates on the art of graffiti and teaches how to create stunning art work that can actually add to a community."

"Regarding graffiti walls. If one were designated I think the council should try and lean into it, photographing and publicising the site to show its progression (or highlighting high quality work). This may generate a social/competitive element to the wall and focus graffiti efforts to that region."

As for graffiti around the area I have noticed a significant uptick in vandalism, littering and graffiti. Maybe there is potential to encourage community lead efforts to paint over vandalism similar to the litter picks currently organised by several groups? This would likely require more hands on effort by the council to interface between such a group and the affected property."

"We need to see street art installed at graffiti blackspots as generally tagging will not happen at locations with professional street art in place."

"Graffiti should be left alone, the more there is that is not removed, the more it is a testament to the failures in catching and prosecuting the perpetrators. There should only be efforts in enforcing the law and not providing any areas for this to be done legally. Graffiti artists should do this at home on their own property or on paper."

"Catch them in the act and make they pay for the cost of clearup, put CCTV Camera aout if suitable."

"Street art on walls is much better than plain walls which just get tagged over and over again. It also brightens up dingy alley ways"

"One idea was to limit the sale of spray paints to teenagers. Another is more CCTV to catch them, then make them clean it off!"

"Trying to tackle this issue the same way as it has been in the past will not work. So why not flip it, work with graffiti artists, embrace them, offer collaborations with shops, leisure facilities, libraries, graffiti walls, get them to run workshops, teaching others their skills make them feel valued. Instead of saying no and excluding, how about saying yes and being inclusive, god knows we need some young, fresh creativity in this town, you never know Tonbridge may just have the next Banksy!"

"Support graffiti and positive additions / murals to buildings in the right location. Provide controls / enforcement where not. Ensure effective and proactive engagement with the community including schools"

"Policeman on the beat would help."

"Hopefully the result would be realistic artwork not just a lot of tag scrawls which mean nothing to anyone apart from the "artist"."

"Be really, really hot on actively eliminating graffiti from anywhere other than approved spaces. Unfortunately it's probably just going to take some money/ resource to resolve."

"Graffiti is an irrelevance. The council should concentrate on ameliorating the falling quality of life for many local residents and stopping the demise of local services."

"Please have the walls, the young people need something to do in their lives!"

"I'm concerned about the graffiti on M20 between junction 4-5. Surely they shouldn't be on the motorway and police should be fining and tackling the problem,"

"Maybe speak with the people doing the graffiti and let them cover some wall around snodland ask them cover up some dull looking walls / fences with some bright colours and that way we in snodland get to see there art and they the people doing the graffiti will fill as though they have done something wroth looking at"

"I would like to see quality urban artists employed to teach the graffiti taggers the skills to make quality artworks on the graffiti walls that you are proposing. It maybe that later on when they are skilled they could be commissioned to produce artworks for the borough."

"The quicker and more frequently it is removed there becomes little point in the "artist" spending time and money on their work. They want to be seen."

"As with any antisocial behaviour and vandalism it is rife because there is a lack of police and consequences"

“can you not get criminal offenders to clean up the graffiti as part of their punishment /community service! set up cctv in most affected areas. River walk side of verdi gris always has kids being anti social and near the sainsbury's and by the CEX gaming shop alley way! Too much rubbish on the streets near takeaway fast food outlets!”

“Recurrent offenders need to be made to clean-off or overpaint any graffiti at their expense (time and cost)”

“A zero tolerance approach to graffiti would be better”

“Graffiti can, in certain circumstances (e.g. graffiti wall), be used to express and share an art form, however, it is unwelcome where the artists considers it their right to paint, draw, spray wherever they please. If it is illegal to deface public property, then it's wrong and the perpetrator should be penalised and have to pay for the clean up. I would enjoy seeing this art form where it is properly and, moreover, legally displayed.”

“I do not know if graffiti walls will eradicate the problem, as some people do not have respect for their surroundings. However it would be an opportunity for some to exhibit their skills.”

“Create spaces for creative young people. They are the future.

Graffiti does not kill people. Speeding traffic does. Get Banksi to sponsor the wall.”

“Artwork could be acceptable. If it is not offensive to anyone, has no political bias and is uplifting in content, aligned with the local area and popular opinions.”

“I think areas such as under bridges could be improved by allowing them to be used as a graffiti wall. No additional construction would be needed as the "wall" already exist to be used.”

“set up cameras in known hotspots and have regular patrols”.

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GRAFFITI POLICY

1 Background

- 1.1 Graffiti is defined as unauthorised writing, drawing or scratches that are scribed, painted, or engraved upon walls and other surfaces without the owner's express permission.
- 1.2 Graffiti can be generally placed into the following categories:
 - Offensive graffiti – whilst there is no specific legal definition of 'offensive' we determine offensive graffiti as words or images which target a person's protected characteristics. Protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010 are:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage and civil partnership
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - race
 - religion or belief
 - sex
 - sexual orientation
 - General graffiti:
 - 'Tags' – the most prominent form of graffiti in most areas of the UK
 - Artistic – drawings, poetry etc.
 - Other non-offensive writing or drawing
- 1.3 Graffiti is an important environmental issue for the borough because of the adverse effects it can have on areas. The presence of unauthorised graffiti is unsightly and may also contribute to the decline of an area.
- 1.4 Graffiti is costly to remove, and it can increase the perception of fear of crime and can be detrimental to community safety. It can decrease local investment in regeneration and cause depreciation of property values. It can be particularly distressing for those whose property is defaced by graffiti, especially if of an offensive nature, and can also have a negative impact upon the vitality and viability of a business.
- 1.5 This proposed policy attempts to provide residents & businesses with clarity as to responsibilities for graffiti clearance and deliver a graffiti removal service that is efficient and sustainable within the resources and budget allocation.

2 Proposed Policy

Ownership	Type	Action
Council Owned Property	Non-offensive <i>Under 2 metres in height*</i>	Removed from council owned property, parks, play equipment and street furniture within ten working days unless the graffiti is on a specialist surface or listed buildings where contractors or consents may be required to carry out the work.
	Offensive <i>Under 2 metres in height*</i>	Removed from council owned property, parks, play equipment and street furniture within two working days unless the graffiti is on a specialist surface or listed buildings where contractors or consents may be required to carry out the work.
Privately Owned Property both residential and commercial	All	<p>The council does not have a statutory duty to remove graffiti on privately owned property. The owner/tenant of the property will be required to arrange removal by either themselves or a third-party contractor.</p> <p>If the owner/tenant does not make their own arrangements for graffiti removal, the council may, after exhausting every other avenue, and in exceptional circumstances use other powers requiring land to be cleaned up. Before taking steps to exercise those powers legal and enforcement advice will be sought and adequate evidence to support any action will be required.</p>

* *The council's contractor's 'working at height' risk assessment determines that two metres is the highest they can work safely without using ladders or specialist equipment.*

Graffiti on council owned property which is over two metres in height will be passed to the council's Property Services team who will arrange for a contractor to attend to take the action required to remove the incident(s).

3 Graffiti Removal on Council Owned Property

3.1 The council's key performance indicators for graffiti removal on council owned property will be:

- Ten working days for non-offensive graffiti (under two metres in height) on Council owned property.
- Two working days for offensive graffiti (under two metres in height) on Council owned property.

- 3.2 Graffiti removed by the council will be photographed before removal so that the case can be referred to the Police via the Community Safety Unit for their own records and potential enforcement action against graffiti offenders.
- 3.3 All offensive graffiti if related to extremist material (e.g. swastikas or offensive language etc.) will be photographed before being removed. These photographs will be sent to csp@tmbc.gov.uk so that they can be sent to KCC's Prevent Team.
- 3.4 The Council's Outdoor Leisure Services officers have been issued with graffiti removal kits which are suitable for the removal of small incidents of graffiti on such surfaces as play equipment, park bins & park signage and these will be removed as and when officers come across these incidents.
- 3.5 The Council's Technical Services team also arrange removal of small to medium size graffiti incidents from surfaces for which they are responsible such as street name plates, car park signage & bridges, etc.

4 Graffiti Removal from Private Property

- 4.1 When we receive reports of graffiti on private property, we will refer the reporter to the landowner/occupier of the property.
- 4.2 The council can only arrange the removal of graffiti from private property by the Community Payback scheme if the owner/occupier is willing to sign a disclaimer releasing the scheme from any liability arising from the services being undertaken.
- 4.3 Timescales for the removal of graffiti on private property by the Community Payback scheme will be subject to agreement with the owner/occupier and the completion of the disclaimer.
- 4.4 If the owner/occupier does not wish us to refer the case to Community Payback, we will ask them to source alternative removal companies to complete the works.
- 4.5 If the owner/occupier does not make their own arrangements for graffiti removal, the council may, after exhausting every other avenue, and in exceptional circumstances use other powers requiring land to be cleaned up. Before taking steps to exercise those powers legal and enforcement advice will be sought and adequate evidence to support any action will be required.

5 Community Payback

- 5.1 The Community Payback scheme is run by the Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service and projects such as graffiti removal can

be nominated if they will benefit the wider community. This scheme is most suited to large, one-off infestations.

- 5.2 Any requests received from property owners/occupiers for the removal of graffiti will be forwarded to the Community Safety Unit for assessment for suitability and for engaging the Community Payback scheme if works are considered appropriate.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

22 May 2024

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2024 - 2025

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required to publish an annual plan of its work. This gives details of the initiatives it has carried out during the previous year and details of the priorities for the forthcoming year.

1.1 The Tonbridge & Malling CSP Partnership Plan 2024 – 2025

1.1.1 The Community Safety Partnership is required to publish an annual plan of its work and the actions that it plans for the forthcoming year. A copy of the Plan is attached at **Annex 1** and gives details about the initiatives that were undertaken during 2023/24 and information about the Partnership's priorities for 2024/25.

1.1.2 Successful initiatives run during 2023/24 include continuing support for victims of domestic abuse, our work to tackle anti-social behaviour, support for youth provision in the borough and events to distribute crime prevention items. The Partnership Plan gives further details of these projects and shows the value that partnership can add.

1.1.3 Crime levels within the borough are low and the borough remains one of the safest in the county. From April 2023 to March 2024, there were 7,621 incidents of victim-based crime recorded within Tonbridge and Malling, compared to 7,784 the previous year (a decrease of 2.1%). There were increases in reports of vehicle crime (7.5%) and burglary of business and community premises (27.7%) but reductions in violent crime (-9.8%), criminal damage (-8%) and crimes against society (-14.1%). The borough remains one of the safest in the county and we have the fourth lowest victim-based crime rate in Kent.

1.1.4 The Partnership has agreed six priorities for 2024/25. These are:

- Acquisitive crime including shoplifting, burglary and theft.
- Anti-Social behaviour including environmental crime
- Domestic Abuse

- Safeguarding Vulnerable People including mental health, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse, fraud and scams and youth diversion
- Violent Crime including Serious Violence, Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking
- Preventing extremism and hate

1.1.5 The Partnership added acquisitive crime as a priority this year as they were concerned about the increase in shoplifting and theft offences. They have set some actions to start to address this issue and hope to see a decrease during the year.

1.1.6 For each of the priorities an Action Plan has been developed with partners and these will be progressed during the year. These action plans are also included within the Partnership Plan. The actions will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership. The Partnership receives funding directly from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 All risk assessments are under-taken as appropriate.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Policy Considerations

1.6.1 Community Safety

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024/25 as set out in Annex 1 BE SUPPORTED AND ENDORSED.

The Interim Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Alison Finch, Safer &
Stronger Communities
Manager

Adrian Stanfield
Interim Chief Executive

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Tonbridge and Malling

Community Safety Partnership

Partnership Plan

2024 - 2025



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Partnership Plan 2024 - 2025

Introduction

The Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership (CSP) produces an annual plan which sets out the objectives that the Partnership will work towards to address community safety issues in the Borough over the coming year. The Plan is based on a Strategic Assessment that looks at current data and trends to address the priorities for the Borough in reducing and tackling crime and disorder. This year the CSP has agreed to focus on six key priorities, and these will be explained in further details later in the document.

The Community Safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. The CSP recognises the challenges in addressing these issues and operates alongside a number of cooperating bodies and other multi-agency partnerships. Over the coming year, the CSP will continue to work with partners to address the many issues identified within the agreement, taking into account new duties and strategic plans, such as the new Serious Violence Duty, the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy and Tackling Domestic Abuse action plan. In the past few years, the most immediate issue was the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and whilst we are now learning to live with this, new challenges have arisen which will affect service needs and agency resources. Issues such as the significant rise in the cost of living; the invasion of Ukraine with millions of people forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries; the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the ongoing disruption to imports / exports causing supply chain bottlenecks. Inevitably these global and local issues will impact on the lives of residents and in turn the work of the partnership, but we will keep working together throughout the year ahead and continue to adapt plans as needed.

The Community Safety Partnership continues to develop and work to address different issues as they arise. The Community Safety Unit, based at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council offices, Kings Hill is the operational arm of the Community Safety Partnership and meets on a weekly basis to share information about vulnerable people and other topics of concern.

During the year the CSP continued to hold a number of different meetings to help tackle the priorities. These meetings included the Serious and Organised Crime Group, the Vulnerable Persons Group, the Rough Sleepers Group and the District Contextual Safeguarding Group.

Funding for Community Safety Partnerships from the PCC has been confirmed for 2024/25 and we will use this to address our local priorities. We need to ensure that we work to reflect the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and that the use of the funding reflects these priorities.

Review of actions 2023/24

Crime levels within Tonbridge and Malling are low and the borough remains one of the safest in the county. From April 2023 to March 2024, there were 7,621 incidents of victim-based crime recorded within Tonbridge and Malling, compared to 7,784 the previous year (a decrease of 2.1%). There were increases in reports of vehicle crime (7.5%) and burglary of business and community premises (27.7%) but reductions in violent crime (-9.8%), criminal damage (-8%) and crimes against society (-14.1%). The borough remains one of the safest in the county and we have the fourth lowest victim-based crime rate in Kent.

During 2023/24 the Partnership had five priorities and the tables below show the progress made against these actions.

Safeguarding Vulnerable People – to include mental health, child criminal sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse fraud and scams and youth diversion.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Provide and support diversionary activities for young people	TMBC KCC Salus	This has been ongoing through funding from the PCC and through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Using the UKSPF, KCC Early Help were able to run a summer activity scheme which over 780 young people were able to attend.	
Work with Kenward Trust to identify hotspot areas and individuals at risk of becoming involved in substance misuse issues	Kenward Trust	Kenward Trust were able to engage with over 2,000 young people in locations such as Tonbridge, Snodland, East Malling and West Malling. Cannabis remains the top issue they spoke to young people about, but also alcohol, vaping and nitrous oxide use.	
Work with schools to raise awareness of substance misuse issues	Kenward Trust Kent Police	Work in schools has continued during the year, with Kenward Trust going into a number of schools in the borough.	
Work with the Police to address Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking e.g. car washes, nail bars, and pop-up brothels.	Kent Police	A number of police operations were carried out during the year to visit possible locations of concern, but no issues were raised.	

Work with the Community Alcohol Partnership to tackle underage drinking across the borough	TMBC	This has been ongoing work during the year. Licenced premises were encouraged to complete online training and a survey for young people was sent out, with results to be analysed shortly.	
Run training for partners, staff, and Members as appropriate	TMBC	Training for new Members was held in July which included information about Safeguarding and Prevent. Channel Panel training was held in October and over 40 professionals attended this.	

Violent crime - including Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Link in with the work of the Kent Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and progress initiatives as appropriate, including the Serious Violence Duty	TMBC Kent Police	This has been ongoing throughout the year and the CSP was able to use funding from the VRU to commission Sport on Your Doorstep to employ an engagement worker to encourage young people into sport and away from crime. During the year they were able to engage with over 70 young people.	
Work in Partnership to disrupt recognised OCGs, emerging trends and county lines.	Serious and Organised Crime Group	Currently there are no Organised Crime Groups within the borough. However, the partnership is continuing to work to identify any possible groups and disrupt these as appropriate.	
Work with 'Reform, Restore, Respect' to hold educational programmes within schools	Reform, Restore, Respect	RRR delivered five workshops in the borough (including in The Malling School and Lunsford Primary School) to a total of 335 attendees. Feedback from the schools and pupils was very positive.	
Consider work to tackle violence against women and girls (such as women's safety training)	TMBC	During the year a consultation was run inviting comments from the public about how safe they feel in the borough. An outcome from this were Women and Girls safety workshops were	

		arranged and several stands held to engage with women. The Police were able to run a number of 'Walk and Talk' events during the year.	
Raise awareness of stalking to housing providers	Protection Against Stalking	PAS were able to run awareness training sessions, including one around neighbour disputes and stalking which Housing providers were invited to attend.	

Domestic Abuse

			Status
Work with DAVSS to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse can receive support	DAVSS	During the year DAVSS supported 310 victims from Tonbridge & Malling. The majority of these were female, with some male victims.	
Continue to provide an IDVA and refuge service to support high risk victims of domestic abuse within West Kent.	Lookahead	During the year Lookahead received 24 referrals to the refuge and over 200 referrals to their IDVA service.	
Run a suite of survivor programmes for female and male survivors including the Freedom Programme, Own My Life and Hope 2 Recovery	Lookahead DAVSS	During the year a number of programmes ran including the Freedom Programme, the ACE Recovery Toolkit, Own My Life Programme and also a Children's Freedom Programme.	
Continue to support the One Stop Shop in Tonbridge	Lookahead DAVSS Clarion PAS	The One Stop Shop is now meeting in person. Attendance numbers are gradually starting to increase.	
Run preventative/educational programmes around healthy relationships in schools (subject to funding)	Lookahead DAVSS	DAVSS were able to run the DAY programme in schools and engaged with over 400 young people. Lookahead were able to develop an animation for primary school pupils around healthy relationship. Training was provided to teachers around this.	

Continue to support the CDAP programme in Tonbridge	CDAP	At the end of March there were 14 men active in the programme (including 5 from Tonbridge & Malling).	
Progress the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) for Tonbridge & Malling	TMBC	Work is continuing on the accreditation. An Action Plan has been developed, and a Steering Group and Operational Group have been set up to take this forward.	
Undertake training and awareness raising for partners and local businesses	Lookahead DAVSS TMBC	Training and awareness raising has been ongoing throughout the year.	
Provide overnight emergency accommodation for high-risk victims needing to flee immediately	Lookahead TMBC	Overnight accommodation was provided for victims during the year.	
Welfare Fund- Provide emergency funding for items such as furniture, white goods, food and travel to high-risk victims in the community.	Lookahead	The welfare fund was used to purchase items such as mobile phones, grocery vouchers and taxi journeys.	

Anti-social behaviour including environmental crime and road safety.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Identify perpetrators of ASB and undertake actions to cease their behaviour	TMBC Housing Associations Kent Police	During the year the Tonbridge & Malling Anti-Social Behaviour Officer has dealt with 328 reports of ASB.	
Provide mediation to deal with neighbour disputes and family conflicts	Mediation services	During the year the Mediation service offered neighbour mediation to 4 clients, Family mediation to 5 clients, Parent and Teen mediation to 2 clients and Anger Management to 3 clients. They were also able to train 52 Peer Mediators.	

Hold face to face and online engagement meetings with the public	TMBC Kent Police KCC Community Wardens	This has been ongoing during the year with 2 online Neighbourhood Engagement meetings held and a number of public meetings in various locations across the borough including at West Malling, Borough Green and Snodland.	
Run Op Assist to target flytipping	Kent Police TMBC	An Op Assist ran on 9 June 2023. 1 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued, two vehicles were seized, and advice was given to several vehicles carrying scrap to apply for a scrap metal licence and advice given with regards to Duty of Care.	

Preventing Extremism and Hate

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Promote the Prevent Strategy within the community via social media etc.	All partners	This has been ongoing work throughout the year, and it has been promoted through social media where appropriate.	
Attend Chanel Panels where appropriate and provide support to individuals when required.	TMBC Kent Police	During this year 16 Prevent referrals were made, although all of these were closed at the initial assessment stage and non were discussed at a Chanel Panel.	
Run Prevent training for staff, partners, and Members (as appropriate)	TMBC	Channel Panel training was held in October 2023 with over 40 professionals attending.	
Implement Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) when appropriate	TMBC	This duty has not yet been implemented but the CSP will be monitoring this and implementing it when it does become law.	

Review of projects and initiatives 2023/24

During 2023/24 the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) undertook a variety of projects and initiatives linked to the actions above. Below are more details about some of the initiatives/projects mentioned above and also some additional projects which were run during the year to address issues which arose during the year.

Although it is sometimes difficult to measure success rates, the Partnership believes that these projects and their successes have made an impact and has resulted in positive outcomes for local people.

Safeguarding Vulnerable People – to include mental health, child criminal sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse fraud and scams and youth diversion.

The CSP continues to commission The Kenward Trust to engage with young people in the borough around alcohol and substance misuse (and the associated anti-social behaviour linked to these substances). During the year they were able to visit five different locations and engaged with over 2,000 individuals. The main issues they have seen is cannabis use and alcohol use and they speak to the young people around the dangers of using these substances. We will continue to commission their work (subject to confirmation from the Police and Crime Commissioner) during 2024/25.



A number of diversionary activities for young people ran during the year. This year funding was available through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to provide youth provision within the borough. KCC Early Help were able to run this provision and were able to support 780 young people. This was through detached youth work and then summer holiday activities during the school summer holidays. The photograph gives an example of an activity that took place during this time.

Work to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking continued with the police carrying out a number of operations in various locations across the borough. On those occasions, no issues were identified but the police will continue to gather evidence and act on this where appropriate to ensure that no one is suffering these issues.

Violent Crime – including Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking

The Serious and Organised Crime Group continues to meet on a monthly basis, and this brings partners together to share information about individuals likely to be involved in organised/violent crime. A number of operations have taken place, led by the Police, leading to a number of arrests, the seizure of cannabis and disruption to organised crime within the borough. Although there are currently no identified organised crime groups within the borough, the partners continue to share information to ensure that we can disrupt any new groups that may be identified.

During the year a charity, Restore, Reform, Respect were able to deliver the ‘I didn’t know that’ anti-crime, early intervention schools project to 335 pupils. They visited five schools within the Borough, including both primary and secondary schools.

The feedback received from pupils and staff was positive with comments such as:

‘I know now how bad it is to be in a gang’.

‘I found it interesting to know that gangs from London are coming to our area and how harsh prison conditions are’.

On International Women’s Day (8 March 2024), the Community Safety Partnership was represented at a stand at Tonbridge Railway Station. Personal Torch alarms were distributed, as well as drink protectors and other personal safety items. Over 30 surveys were completed which showed that generally people felt safe in Tonbridge but that there were some areas, such as during the nighttime economy where further work might be needed (*The photograph shows the stand at Tonbridge Railway Station*).

The Police also held a number of Walk and Talk events during the year, which enabled them to engage with women and get their views.

Protection Against Stalking were also able to run training for partners which was well attended by a variety of organisations.



Domestic Abuse

The Community Safety Partnership continued to provide funding for DAVSS to work with medium risk victims of domestic abuse and during the year they were able to receive 310 referrals, a decrease from 347 the previous year. Of these 291 were female and 19 were male victims. We also continue to support Lookahead (who work with high-risk victims of domestic abuse) and they were able to support over 200 people throughout their IDVA service. A number of programmes were run during the year to support survivors including five Freedom Programmes, with 54 women in total attending. Four Own My Life courses were also run with 65 attendees, as well as a Children's ACE programme with 8 children attending and a Children's Freedom Programme with 7 children attending.

The One Stop Drop-In service in Tonbridge continued to run throughout the year. These are now held in-person and although numbers were low, they are gradually starting to increase.

The Community Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme (CDAP) also continued to run in Tonbridge and at the end of March 6 men were active in the programme. During the year there were 7 referrals to CDAP from individuals in Tonbridge & Malling.

Anti-social Behaviour including environmental crime and road safety.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a concern for residents. Residents can report anti-social behaviour to the Borough Council and during the year they received 328 complaints. The majority of these related to neighbour disputes. 32 Community Protection Warning letters were issued, with one Community Protection Warning Notices issued. We received no Community Trigger applications during the year.



During the year the Borough Council renewed its Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). These included a number of different restrictions across the borough, including deterring dog fouling, preventing unauthorised swimming, and stopping nuisance associated with car/motorbike meetings. As part of the PSPO to tackle nuisance vehicles we issued 42 Fixed Penalty Notices to those who had been seen causing a problem in a particular location. These fines proved successful with no further reports of issues in that location.

The Borough Council was also able to use four mobile CCTV cameras to help resolve neighbour disputes and provide evidence to the police. During 2023/24 the cameras were placed in 6 different locations. They will continue to be moved to different locations as required during 2024/25.

During the year we also attended six community events where members of the community can speak to representatives from the Community Safety Partnership about any concerns they have and pick up free crime prevention items. These were held in Kings Hill, Tonbridge, West Malling, Larkfield, Borough Green and Snodland. We also held two online Neighbourhood Engagement events (in April and September 2023) where members of the public could join to raise concerns about issues in their area with representatives of the police, Borough Council or County Council.

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Kent Police worked together to tackle illegal dumping by running Op Assist. An operation ran on 9 June and 1 Fixed Penalty Notice was issued for not having the relevant waste transfer notes, 2 vehicles were seized by the police and advice was given to several vehicles.

To help resolve anti-social behaviour issues the Mediation service (Maidstone Mediation and West Kent Mediation) were able to provide a number of different types of mediation, including neighbour mediation, parent and teen mediation and anger management. During the year the Mediation service offered neighbour mediation to 4 clients, Family mediation to 5 clients, Parent and Teen mediation to 2 clients and Anger Management to 3 clients. They were also able to train 52 Peer Mediators.

Preventing Extremism and Hate

Representatives from the Community Safety Unit continue to attend Channel Panels (where individuals who may be at risk of being drawn into extremism are discussed). This year Panel meetings were moved online and continued to meet. However, during this year there were no referrals discussed at the Channel Panels from Tonbridge & Malling, although 16 referrals were made but did not meet the threshold for the Panel meetings.

The CSP also linked in with Social Media campaigns to raise awareness of 'Prevent' and counter terrorism and a number of messages have been sent out to let the public know about how to report concerns or suspicious activity. We were able to run Prevent training for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council staff, Members and partners in October 2023 and over 40 people attended.

Priority Issues for 2024 – 2025

The Strategic Assessment undertaken during the autumn of 2023 identified the priority areas for the Partnership to tackle during 2024 – 2025 and the Partnership held a ‘workshop’ in February 2024 to discuss the areas that they would focus on during the next year. The Strategic Assessment used data provided by partners to recommend priorities for the forthcoming year.

The priorities agreed through the Strategic Assessment for 2024/25 are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour – including environmental crime.
- Acquisitive Crime – including shoplifting, theft and burglary.
- Domestic Abuse
- Preventing Extremism and Hate
- Safeguarding Vulnerable people – including mental health, child criminal sexual exploitation, gangs, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse and youth diversion
- Tackling violent crime – including Serious Violence, Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking

Tackling acquisitive crime is a new priority for the CSP for 2024/25 and was identified during the workshop as an emerging issue within the borough. The theme will look at how partners can help to reduce shoplifting, theft and burglary.

Partners felt that tackling Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls should continue to be key areas of concern for the Partnership and therefore will continue as priorities for the year ahead.

Tackling Serious Violence will become a new Duty for Community Safety Partnerships to tackle during the year ahead and further actions will be developed once more details are known about what will be required.

Reducing reoffending is a statutory requirement for the Community Safety Partnership and the Partnership will also consider this in the work that it does. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme now focus their work on offenders who commit neighbourhood crimes and the CSP will link in where appropriate to work with these offenders.

Although the main focus of the CSP will be the priorities as mentioned above, it will still continue to monitor other types of crime. The Community Safety Unit holds weekly meetings where issues of concern are raised, and partners can be tasked to address issues as they arise. Information on repeat and vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour is shared with partners on a regular basis.

The following pages set out the actions for the CSP for 2024/25. The action plans do not include details about the numerous activities already undertaken by partners, town and parish councils, the voluntary sector, and others as part of their day-to-day work, but will highlight activities in addition to core work, which partners will undertake throughout the forthcoming year.

Funding for actions included within the Action Plan is available from a number of different sources, including the funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. The amount of funding that the CSP will receive from the PCC has remained the same as last year and we have also again been given a 'tactical pot' of funding from the PCC that we can access during the year. Regular monitoring of each project will be undertaken by the Partnership and an evaluation will be provided on completion of the project.

When preparing the action plans, issues such as equality and diversity will be considered to ensure that any person, regardless of their protected characteristic feels safe in the Borough. The CSP takes reports of hate crimes seriously and works together to ensure that information is shared to ensure any issues are resolved.

Action Plans 2024 – 2025

Anti-social behaviour including environmental crime.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Identify perpetrators of ASB and undertake actions to cease their behaviour	TMBC Housing Associations Kent Police		
Provide mediation to deal with neighbour disputes and family conflicts	Mediation services		
Hold face to face and online engagement meetings with the public.	TMBC Kent Police KCC Community Wardens		
Work with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council's ASB Enforcement Team to tackle ASB hotspot locations	TMBC		
Run Op Assist to target flytipping (subject to funding)	TMBC Kent Police		

Acquisitive crime including shoplifting, theft and burglary

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Promote the Safer Towns Scheme to businesses	Safer Towns Partnership Kent Police TMBC		
Hold at least three crime prevention stands to distribute crime prevention items	TMBC KCC Community Wardens Kent Police		
Ensure high visibility patrolling of key hotspot locations	Kent Police		

Domestic Abuse

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Work with DAVSS to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse can receive support	DAVSS		
Continue to provide an IDVA and refuge service to support high risk victims of domestic abuse within West Kent.	Lookahead		
Run a suite of survivor programmes for female and male survivors including the Freedom Programme, Own My Life and Hope 2 Recovery	DAVSS Lookahead		
Continue to support the One Stop Shop in Tonbridge	Lookahead, Clarion DAVSS, PAS and TMBC Housing		
Run preventative/educational programmes around healthy relationships in schools (subject to funding)	DAVSS Lookahead		
Continue to support the CDAP programme in Tonbridge	Community Domestic Abuse Programme		
Progress the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation (DAHA) for Tonbridge & Malling	TMBC		
Undertake training and awareness raising for partners and local businesses	Lookahead DAVSS TMBC		

Preventing extremism and hate

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Promote the Prevent Strategy within the community via social media etc.	All partners		
Attend Chanel Panels where appropriate and provide support to individuals when required.	TMBC Kent Police		
Run Prevent training for staff, partners and Members (as appropriate)	TMBC		
Implement Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) when appropriate	TMBC		
Encourage victims to report hate crime and promote the ways to do this.	All partners		

Safeguarding Vulnerable People – to include mental health, child criminal sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, substance misuse, fraud and scams and youth diversion.

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Provide and support diversionary activities for young people	TMBC, KCC and Project Salus		
Work with Kenward Trust to identify hotspot areas and individuals at risk of becoming involved in substance misuse issues	Kenward Trust		
Work with schools to raise awareness of substance misuse issues	Kent Police Kenward Trust		
Work with the Police to address Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking e.g., car washes, nail bars, and pop-up brothels.	Kent Police		
Work with the Community Alcohol Partnership organisation to tackle underage drinking across the borough	TMBC		

Run training for partners, staff and Members as appropriate	TMBC		
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Violent crime – including Serious Violence, Violence Against Women and Girls and Stalking

Action	Owner/lead agency	Update	Status
Link in with the work of the Kent Violence Reduction Unit and progress initiatives as appropriate including the Serious Violence Duty	TMBC Kent Police		
Work in Partnership to disrupt recognised OCGs, emerging trends and county lines	Serious and Organised Crime Group		
Work with 'Reform, Restore, Respect' to hold educational programmes within schools	Reform, Restore, Respect		
Consider work to tackle violence against women and girls	TMBC		
Raise awareness of stalking to partners	Protection Against Stalking		

Membership of the Community Safety Partnership and contact details.

<p>Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Tel: 01732 844522 www.tbmc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Kent Police Tel 101 www.kent.police.uk</p>	<p>Kent Fire & Rescue Service Tel: 01622 692121 www.kent.fire-uk.org</p>	<p>NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board Tel: 01634 335095 https://www.kmhealthandcare.uk/</p>
<p>KCC Integrated Youth Services Tel: 03000 414 141 www.kent.gov.uk</p>	<p>KCC Families and Social Care Tel: 03000 414 141 www.kent.gov.uk</p>	<p>KCC Trading Standards Tel: 01732 525291 www.kent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Clarion Housing Tel: 0800 197 2880 www.myclarionhousing.com</p>
<p>Victim Support Tel: 0808 168 9276 www.victimsupport.org.uk</p>	<p>National Probation Service Tel: 01892 559350 www.kentprobation.org</p>	<p>KCC Community Wardens Tel: 03000 413455 www.kent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Tel: 01622 604395 www.westkentwatch.com</p>
<p>Protection Against Stalking www.protectionagainststalking.org</p>	<p>DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services) Tel: 01892 570538 www.davss.org.uk</p>	<p>Lookahead Tel: 0333 010 4600 www.lookahead.org.uk</p>	<p>Porchlight Tel: 01227 760 078 www.porchlight.org.uk</p>
<p>Moat Housing Tel: 0300 323 0011 www.moat.co.uk</p>	<p>Hyde Housing Tel: 0800 3282 282 www.hyde-housing.co.uk</p>	<p>Southern Housing Group Tel: 0300 303 1773 www.shgroup.org.uk</p>	<p>CGL Tel: 01732 367380 www.changegrowlive.org</p>
<p>Kenward Trust Tel: 01622 814187 www.kenward.org.uk</p>	<p>Citizens Advice in North & West Kent (CANWK) Tel: 0808 278 7810 www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-west-kent/</p>	<p>Maidstone Mediation Tel: 01622 692843 www.maidstonemediation.co.uk</p>	<p>West Kent Mediation Tel: 01732 469696 www.wkm.org.uk</p>

Glossary

ASB	Anti-social behaviour
CDAP	Community Domestic Abuse Programme - for perpetrators of domestic abuse
CGL	Change, Grow, Live – Substance misuse organisation providing rehabilitation services.
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSU	Community Safety Unit
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence risk identification and assessment model.
DAVSS	Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
KFRS	Kent Fire and Rescue Service
OCG	Organised Crime Group
PAS	Protection Against Stalking
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
TMBC	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls

Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership
Tel: 01732 844522
Email: csp@tmbc.gov.uk



TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

22 May 2024

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA STATUS UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Legislation background

- 1.1.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 as amended by the Environment Act 2021 forms part of the legislation that Local Authorities have a duty to comply with to monitor and tackle air pollution. The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 2022 document (TG22) provides the current statutory guidance as to how LAs should comply with this legislation.
- 1.1.2 In TG22, section 3.57 states that the revocation of an Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) status should be considered following three consecutive years of compliance with the air quality objective for which the AQMA was declared, as evidenced through monitoring. In Tonbridge and Malling all of our six current AQMAs are declared for exceedances of the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³.
- 1.1.3 Where monitoring is completed using diffusion tubes, it is recommended that revocation of AQMA status should be considered following three consecutive years of annual mean NO₂ concentrations being lower than 36 µg/m³ (i.e. within 10 % of the annual mean NO₂ objective). There should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective has been achieved for a consecutive five-year period.
- 1.1.4 TG22 refers to covid years (2020 & 2021) in section 3.54 and says that where covid years form part of the consecutive years of compliance AQMAs may still be considered for revocation particularly where a downward trend in pollution levels was already evident.
- 1.1.5 To add additional context, it is also a statutory requirement for Councils to submit an Annual Status Report (ASR) on air quality monitoring to DEFRA by 30 June each year. In our 2023 ASR appraisal by DEFRA, they commented on the status of some of our AQMAs and that they expect reviews and where appropriate revocations to occur in line with TG22, given our monitoring results.

- 1.1.6 In their words '*AQMAs should identify areas where air quality objectives are not being met or are likely to be at risk of not meeting them. Keeping AQMAs in place longer than required risks diluting their meaning and impacting public trust in LAQM*'
- 1.1.7 There is a risk of censure by DEFRA if not seen to be complying with Statutory Guidance.
- 1.1.8 With the above in mind, we have reviewed results at our six AQMAs.

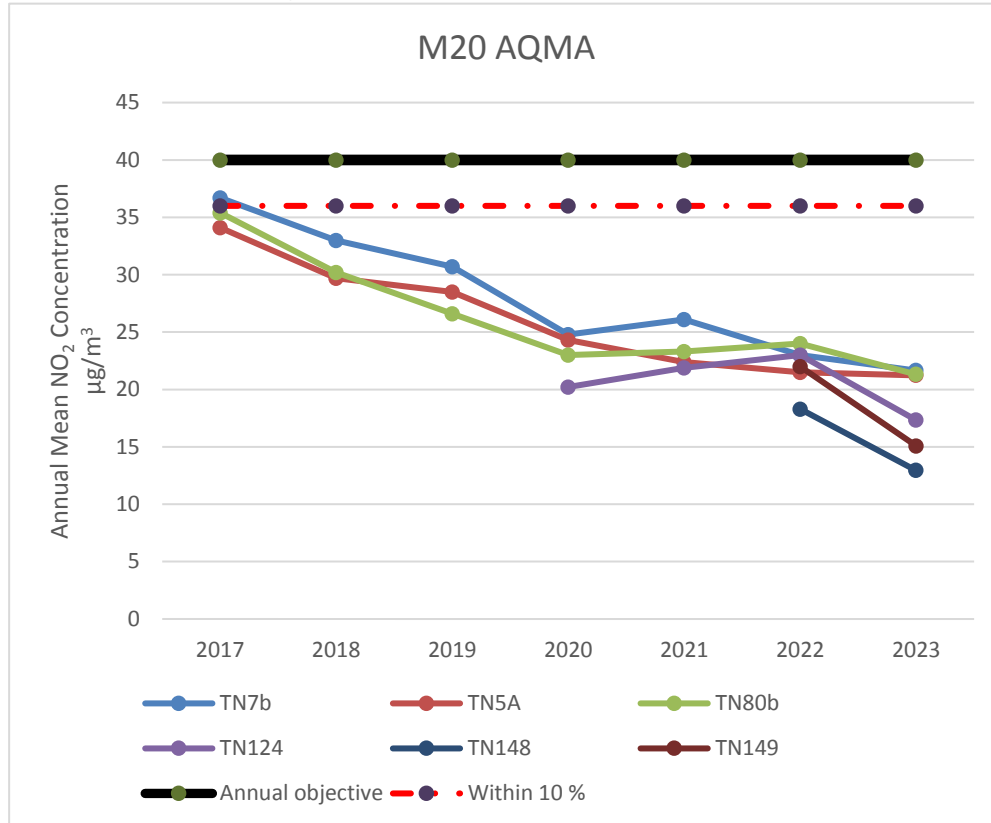
1.2 AQMA Status

1.2.1 M20 AQMA, M20 between the New Hythe Lane and Hall Road Bridges

The M20 AQMA should be revoked in line with statutory guidance in TG22. As indicated in Figure 1 below, monitoring at receptors using diffusion tubes has not exceeded the annual objective for NO₂ or been within 10 % of the annual objective in the last five years or more.

Pollution levels were decreasing at receptors even before the motorway was widened and converted to smart Motorway with those works completed in 2020. Ultimately free flowing traffic at consistent speeds allows engines to work most efficiently. Even with a slight upturn at some monitoring sites in 2022 following the Covid years, Pollution from NO₂ is at least 15µg/m³ below the annual objective, with no justification for keeping this AQMA in place.

Figure 1, results for the M20 AQMA



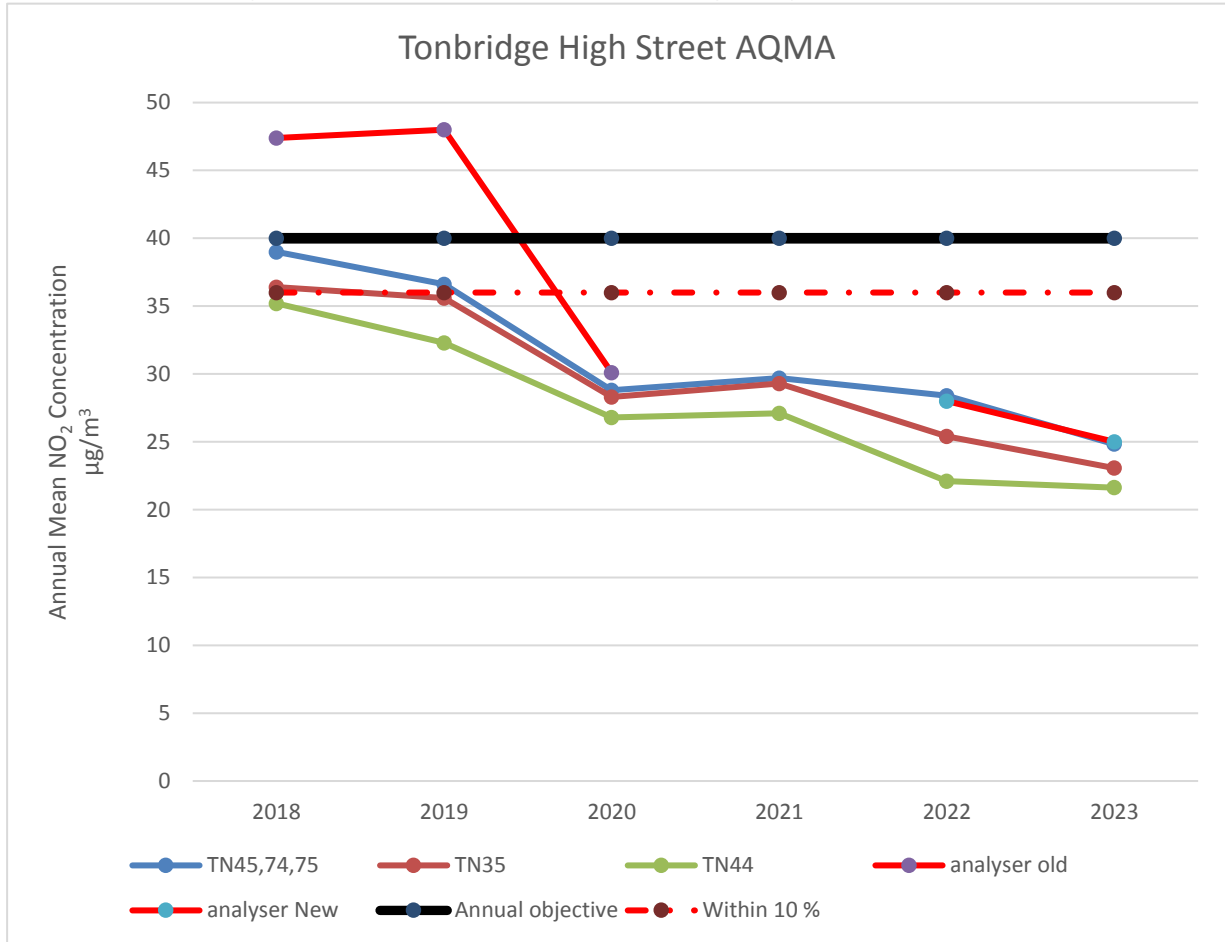
1.2.2 Tonbridge High Street AQMA, Tonbridge High Street between Vale Road and The Botany

The diffusion tubes results within the AQMA have not been within 10 % of the NO₂ annual objective for the last four years and pollution levels at these sites were in decline pre covid. This decline has continued post covid (not withstanding a very small bounce back in 2021 following the main Covid lockdowns of 2020). Results for 2022 and 2023 show a continuation of the downward trend and all diffusion tubes monitoring sites within this AQMA are now at least 15µg/m³ below the annual objective.

Although the continuous analyser (old) recorded levels above the objective when placed in the old McDonalds site (now Taco Bell), when a replacement was placed almost opposite in 2022 (above The Works) it has consistently recorded well under the annual objective.

Based on these results, if NO₂ levels remain consistent in 2024, then in line with TG22 this AQMA can be revoked in 2025.

Figure 2, results within the Tonbridge High Street AQMA

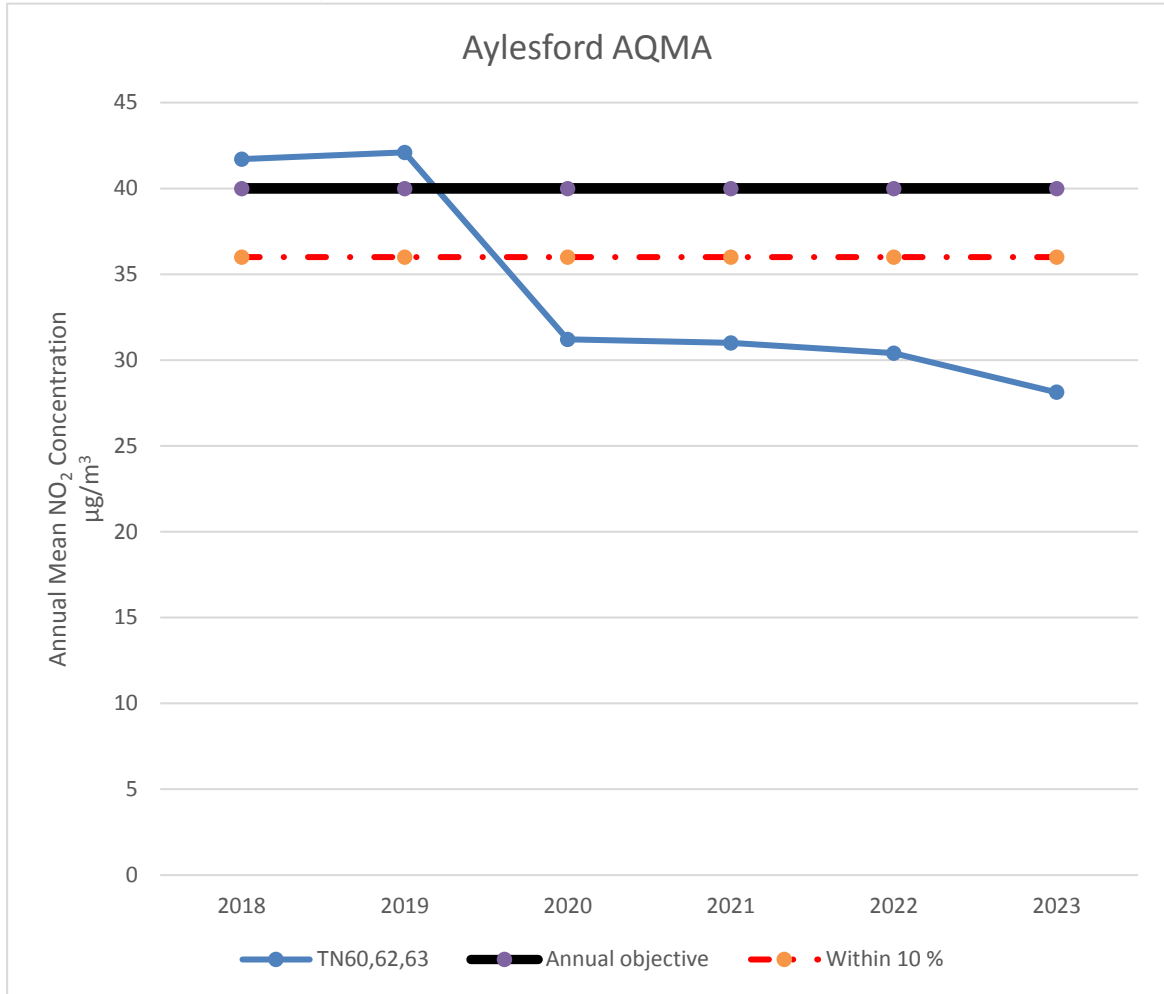


1.2.3 Aylesford AQMA, A20/Hall Road/Mills Road Crossroads

The triplicate diffusion tube site on the closest sensitive receptor within this AQMA has seen a continued decline in NO₂ post Covid. The last four years have not been within 10% of the objective and although shallower than falls at other sites a continued downward trend in NO₂ levels has emerged.

Based on these results, if NO₂ levels remain consistent in 2024, then in line with TG22 this AQMA can be revoked in 2025.

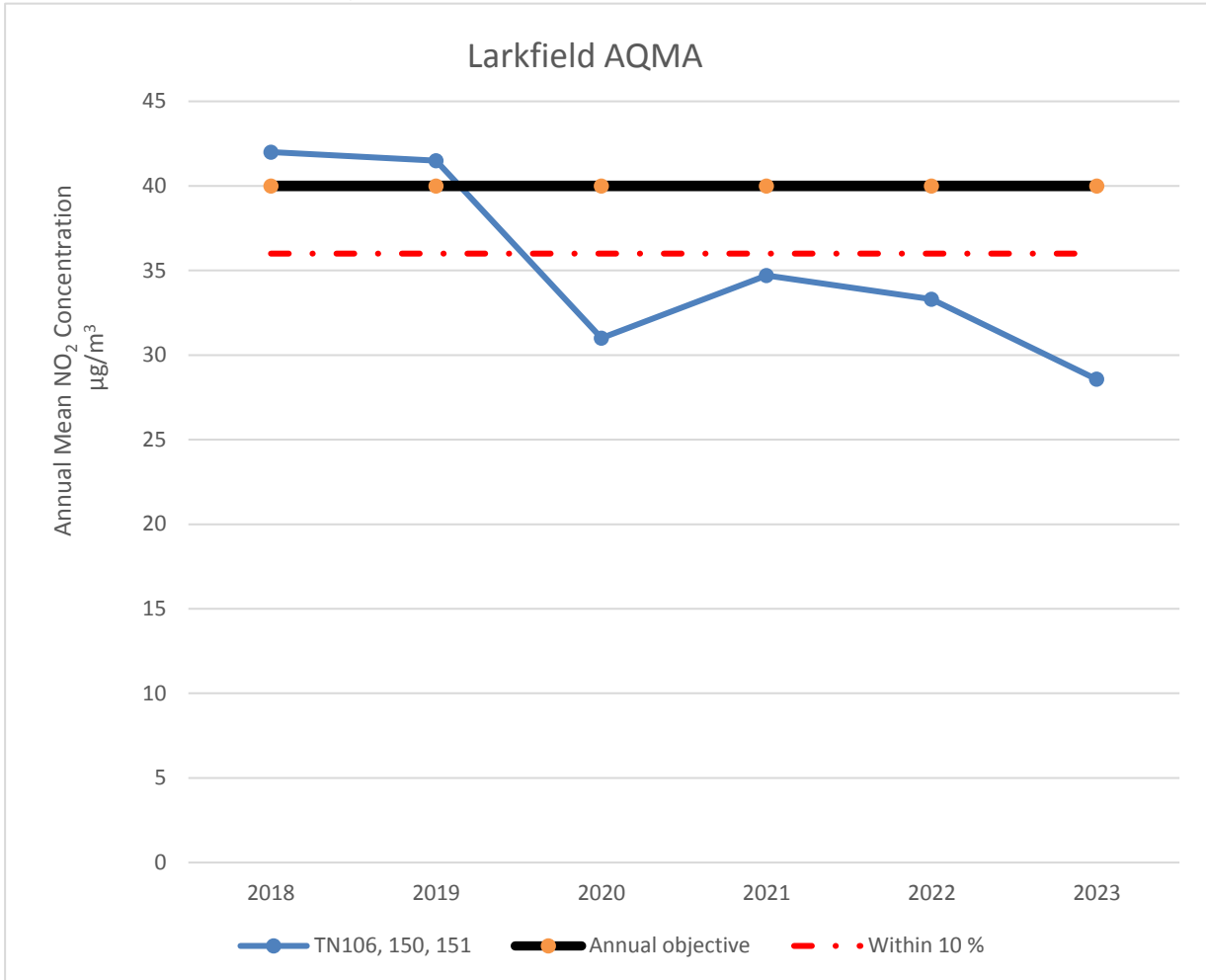
Figure 3, result within the Aylesford AQMA



1.2.4 Larkfield AQMA A20/New Hythe Lane Junction

This AQMA is also monitored by a triplicate diffusion tube site. It has recorded under the $36 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ threshold for at least four years. Although much closer to that threshold than other AQMAs it has shown a consistent downward trend in the last couple of years. If NO_2 levels remain consistent in 2024, then in line with TG22 this AQMA can be revoked in 2025.

Figure 4, result within the Larkfield AQMA

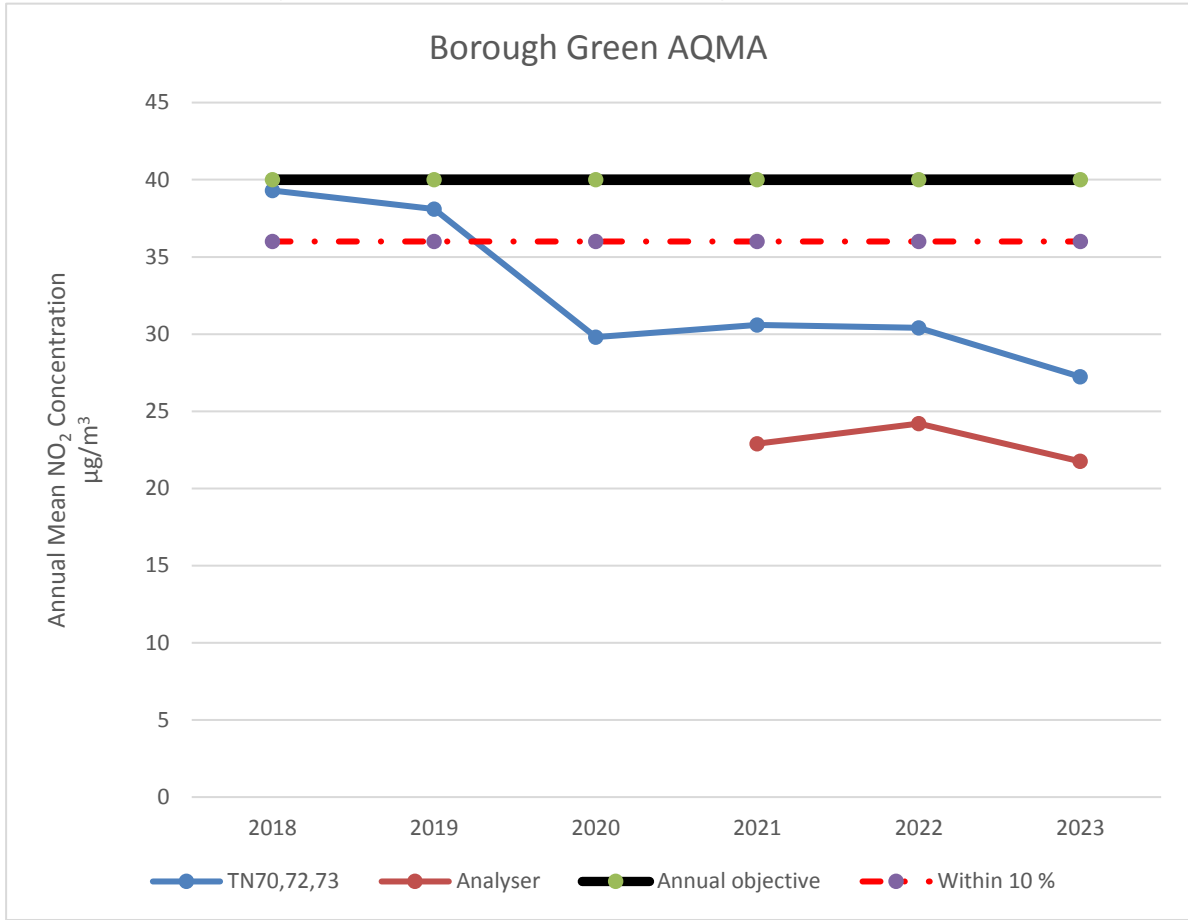


1.2.5 Borough Green AQMA Junction of Sevenoaks Road and Western Road

This AQMA is served by a triplicate diffusion tube site, and a continuous analyser which went online in mid-2021. Currently both results sit well under the NO₂ annual mean 40µg/m³ threshold. If continuous analyser results for 2024 show similar levels, then this AQMA can be revoked in 2025 in line with TG22.

For clarity there is also a particulate monitor co located with the continuous NO₂ analyser. However, the existing AQMA was not declared for exceedances of the particulate objectives, and monitoring to date indicates that any such declaration is highly unlikely.

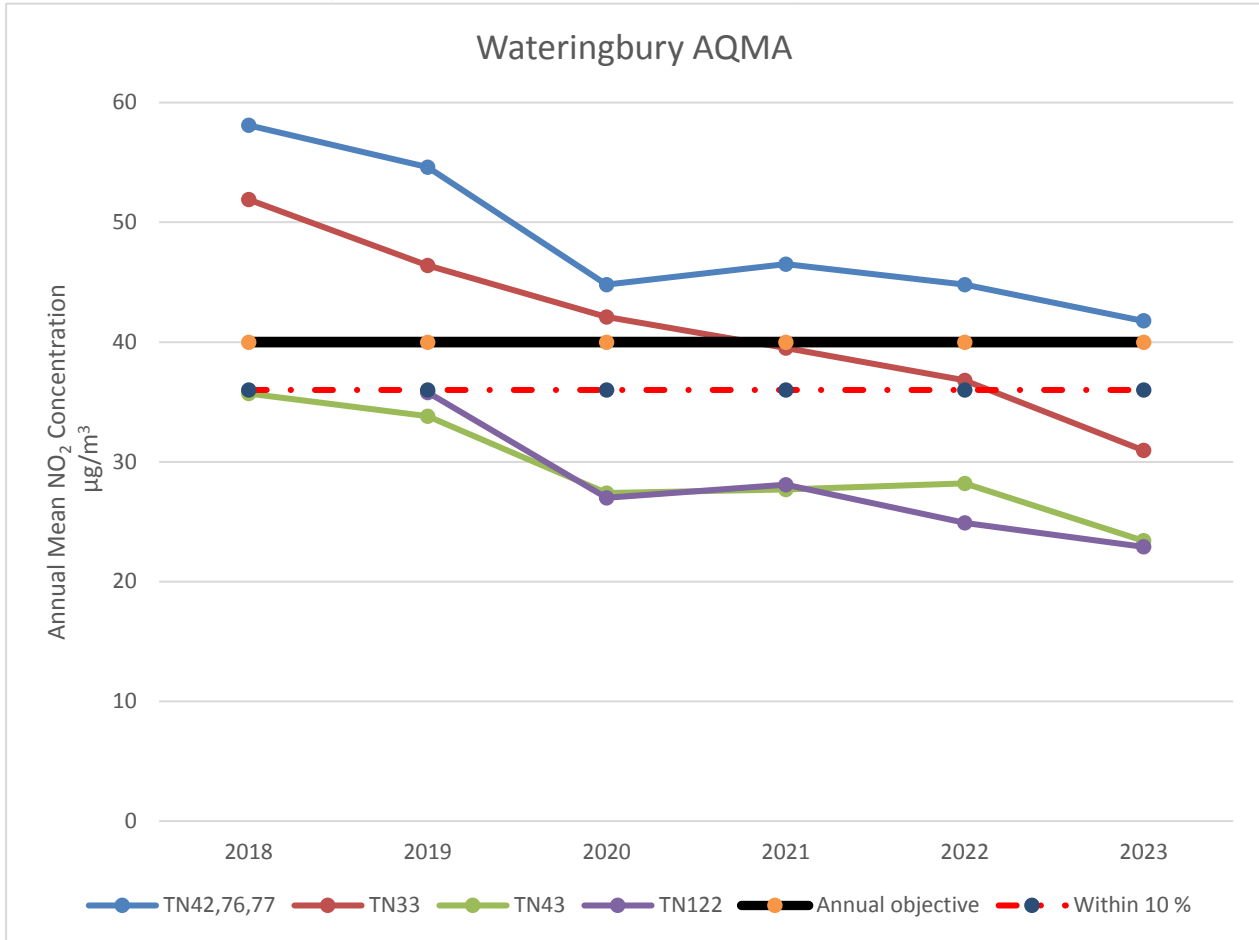
Figure 5, results within the Borough Green AQMA



**1.2.6 Watringbury AQMA
Watringbury Crossroads A26/Bow Road/Red Hill**

Watringbury continues to be our only AQMA where diffusion tube monitoring exceeds the Annual NO₂ objective. Although levels were declining pre Covid, this site has always recorded our highest levels in the Borough and so if current rates of reduction remain the same it is predicted to still be around 5 years before this AQMA could be revoked given the timeframes in TG22.

Figure 6, results within the Wateringbury AQMA



1.3 Conclusions

- 1.3.1 The M20 AQMA should be revoked this year as it already meets the tests in TG22 for AQMA revocation.
- 1.3.2 Tonbridge High Street, Aylesford, Larkfield and Borough Green AQMAs should be kept under review until final monitoring results for 2024 are known (expected to be around Easter 2025). If results remain under $36 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3 \text{NO}_2$, then these AQMAs should be revoked in line with TG22.
- 1.3.3 The Wateringbury AQMA is unlikely to meet the revocation criteria in the near future and will be TMBC's sole AQMA if all other AQMAs are revoked as expected by mid-2025.
- 1.3.4 AQ monitoring across the borough will continue in line with our statutory requirements to do so, with the flexibility to move monitoring sites currently outside of AQMAs as appropriate.
- 1.3.5 Monitoring within the current AQMAs will continue, to keep air quality under review in known hotspots.

1.3.6 As per guidance in TG22 a new AQMA can be declared if pollution exceeds the relevant objective levels.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 The process for air quality monitoring, and the declaration/revocation of AQMAs are laid out in Statutory Guidance to which the Council must adhere.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The costs incurred in carrying out our current level of air quality monitoring are budgeted for. There is no direct cost associated with the revocation of AQMAs.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 The main risk arising is the non-compliance with statutory guidance where AQMAs are kept in force despite monitoring showing they should be revoked. This may result in censure by DEFRA.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That Members **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet the revocation of the M20 Air Quality Management Area.

1.7.2 That Members **RECOMMEND** that Cabinet acknowledge the status of the Air Quality Management Areas in Tonbridge High Street, Aylesford, Larkfield and Borough Green and review again in 2025 with a view to revocation should monitoring results for 2024 be conducive.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Crispin Kennard
Environmental Protection
Team Manager

Eleanor Hoyle
Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

22 May 2024

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 DEVELOPING A PATHWAY TO CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

To present for information a modelled pathway of emissions reductions for major measures to 2030.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The 2023-24 Climate Change Action Plan includes an action to “Produce a TMBC carbon emissions pathway report to inform policy planning for carbon neutral by 2030”. A pathway to 2030 would support delivery of the council’s corporate priority of ‘Sustaining a borough which cares for the environment’ and the climate change strategy.

1.1.2 An emissions pathway is a modelled scenario that shows a credible route towards a carbon reduction goal. A pathway is not a fully-costed, detailed action plan, but a tool to illustrate total emissions reductions that are achievable under reasonable assumptions. A pathway gives an overall picture of the direction of travel, helping to highlight priority areas for emissions reductions, and where ‘go further’ options will be needed in due course. In other words, a pathway brings together emissions reduction decisions taken service-by-service to present a picture of overall progress.

1.2 Developing a credible pathway to 2030

1.2.1 It is important to be transparent about the assumptions and level of uncertainty of any published pathway. It is possible to draw a line on a graph to 2030 and say that we need to decarbonise everything to get there. However, this is not a credible pathway without a realistic high-level judgement of how decarbonisation might be achieved, consideration of technical challenges, existing contracts, and cost.

1.2.2 The Annex to this report presents a TMBC pathway that shows a potential route towards the carbon neutral by 2030 aspiration. This pathway has been modelled using credible assumptions that remain high level at this stage and makes clear the level of uncertainty for major measures.

- 1.2.3 The pathway includes the recently completed installation of solar panels on Tonbridge Swimming Pool. Additional solar panels, energy efficiency measures and a heat pump at Larkfield Leisure Centre are fully funded actions that are in progress. These actions are being delivered through the £1.5 million in grants awarded to the Council through the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund, and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Operational emissions savings at leisure facilities will be supported through the Leisure Trust's Climate Change Strategy 2024 -2027, and action plan.
- 1.2.4 Key milestones in tackling major sources of emissions have been given an initial RAG rating to show the current status and indication of feasibility. Some 'go further' options have been suggested but are not currently in development, as relevant services will lead on developing options in due course, and in line with current contracts, capital renewals, grant availability and Member decisions.
- 1.2.5 The pathway will change over time, as decisions are made and plans come into fruition. The pathway shows emissions cuts needed, it does not pre-empt the detail of how those emissions cuts 'must' be achieved. That remains a decision for Members on a service-by-service basis. However, the pathway will help Members understand the overall implications of those decisions with reference to the 2030 goal.
- 1.2.6 Other local authorities across the UK and more locally, such as Canterbury City Council, have published pathways and illustrated these in a visually engaging way. If a TMBC pathway is agreed, the intention is to develop a similar visual to communicate progress towards carbon neutral.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 None. The pathway is not a commitment, detailed design, or action plan.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 TMBC has committed to publishing a pathways report. There is some reputational risk of not meeting commitments, and of not showing a credible pathway to carbon neutral.

1.6 Policy Considerations

- 1.6.1 Climate Change.

Background papers:

contact: Carrie Spencer

Annex 1 TMBC Pathway to 2030

Adrian Stanfield
Interim Chief Executive

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TMBC Emissions Pathway to 2030

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Carrie Spencer, Climate Change Officer
May 2024

Serving our
community



This emissions pathway report covers:

Establishing commitments and initial climate action (2019 – 2023)

Bringing down emissions (2024 – 2026)

A pathway to 2030 (2027 – 2030)

TMBC has set a clear direction on climate action, establishing a baseline and working to deliver emissions reductions

TMBC Full Council (July 2019)

- declared global climate change and biodiversity emergencies
- adopted an aspiration for Tonbridge and Malling to be **carbon neutral by 2030.**

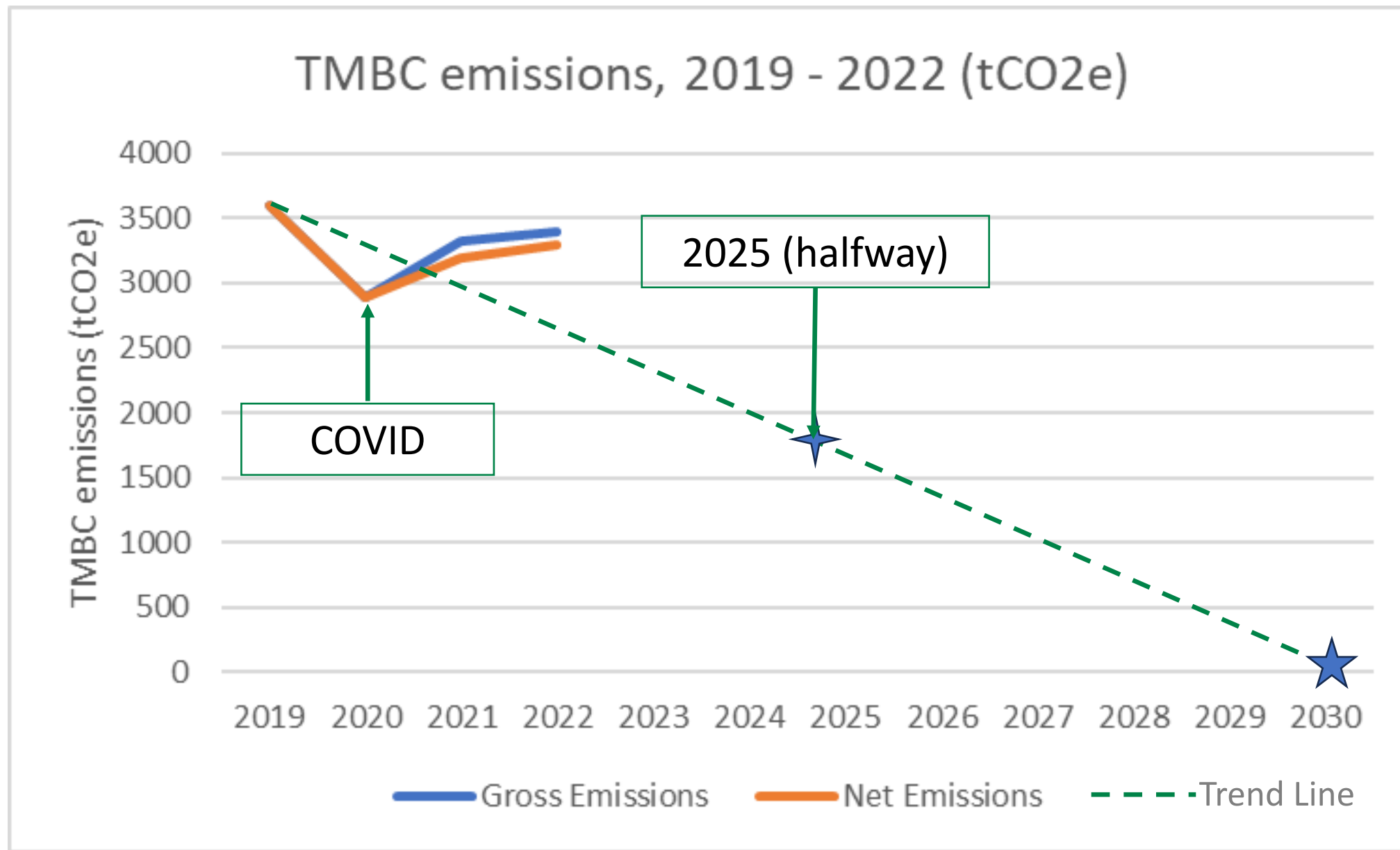


The Council published a **Climate Change Strategy 2020- 30**

which is delivered through annual **Climate Change Action Plans**

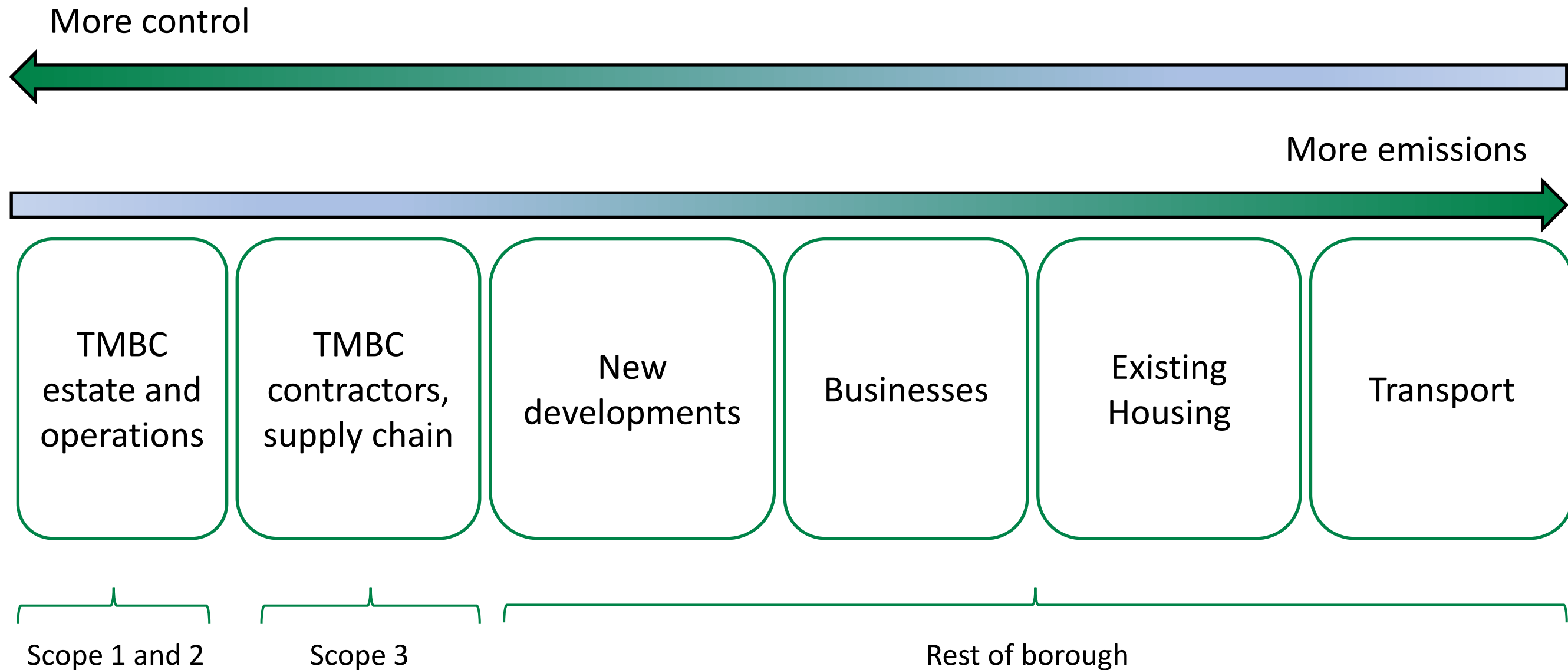
and monitored by annual **Carbon Audits**

TMBC emissions are below baseline following the Climate Change Strategy in 2020 and first three years of action plans



Emissions data for 2023-24 is currently being compiled

TMBC has more control over relatively small sources of emissions ... and less control over larger sources of emissions



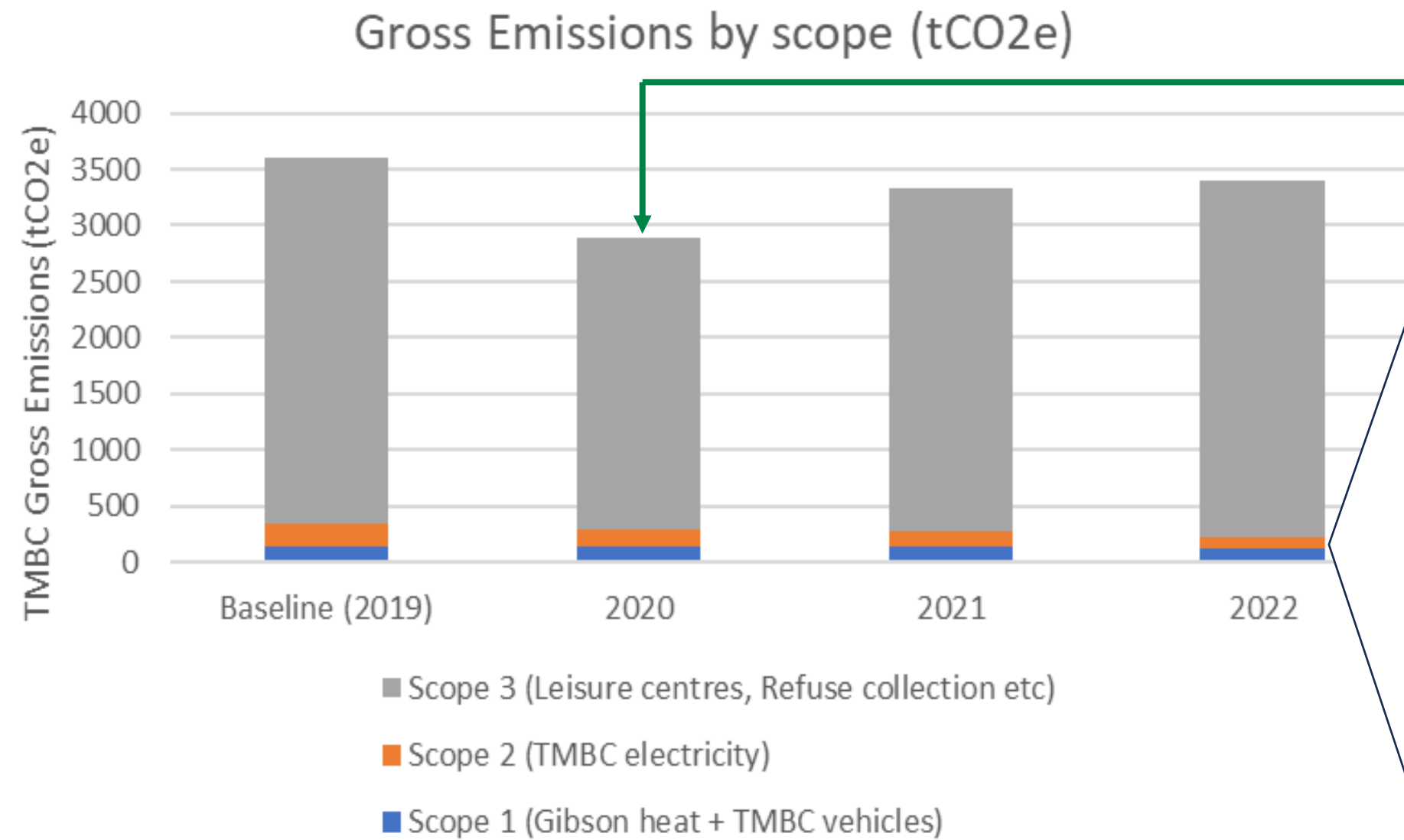
TMBC overview: changes in gross emissions and net emissions (i.e. less renewable electricity)

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TMBC Emissions, tonnes CO2e					
	Baseline (2019)	2020	2021	2022	% change from baseline
Scope 1 (Gibson heat + TMBC vehicles)	139	149	144	128	-8%
Scope 2 (TMBC electricity)	198	146	131	100	-50%
Scope 3 (Leisure centres, Refuse collection etc)	3,267	2,592	3,049	3,169	-3%
Total gross emissions	3,604	2,887	3,324	3,397	-6%
Green tariff	0	0	133	101	
Total annual net emissions	3,604	2,887	3,190	3,296	-9%

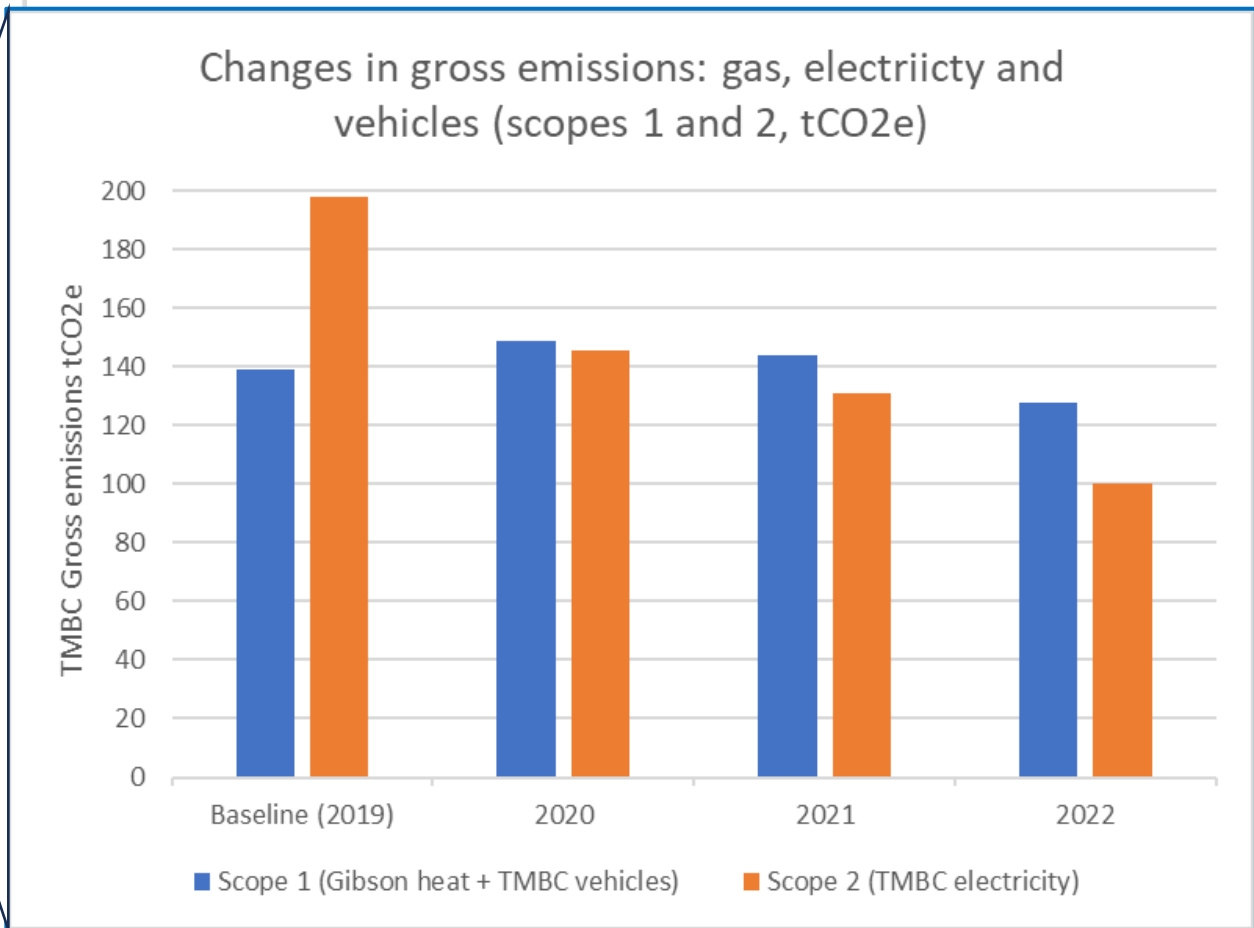
Total emissions lower than baseline

Scope 3 produces the majority of emissions from TMBC's estate and operations

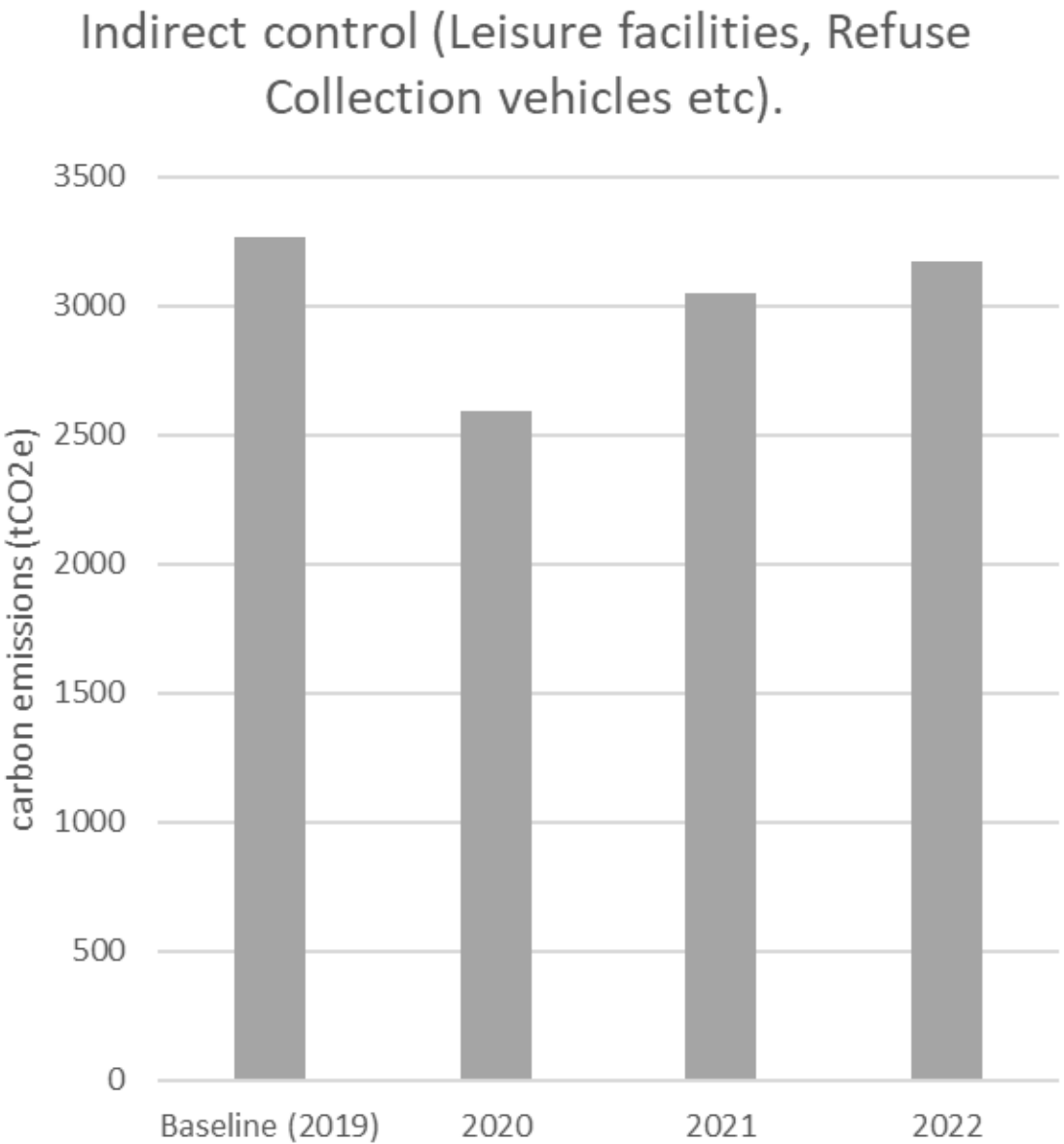
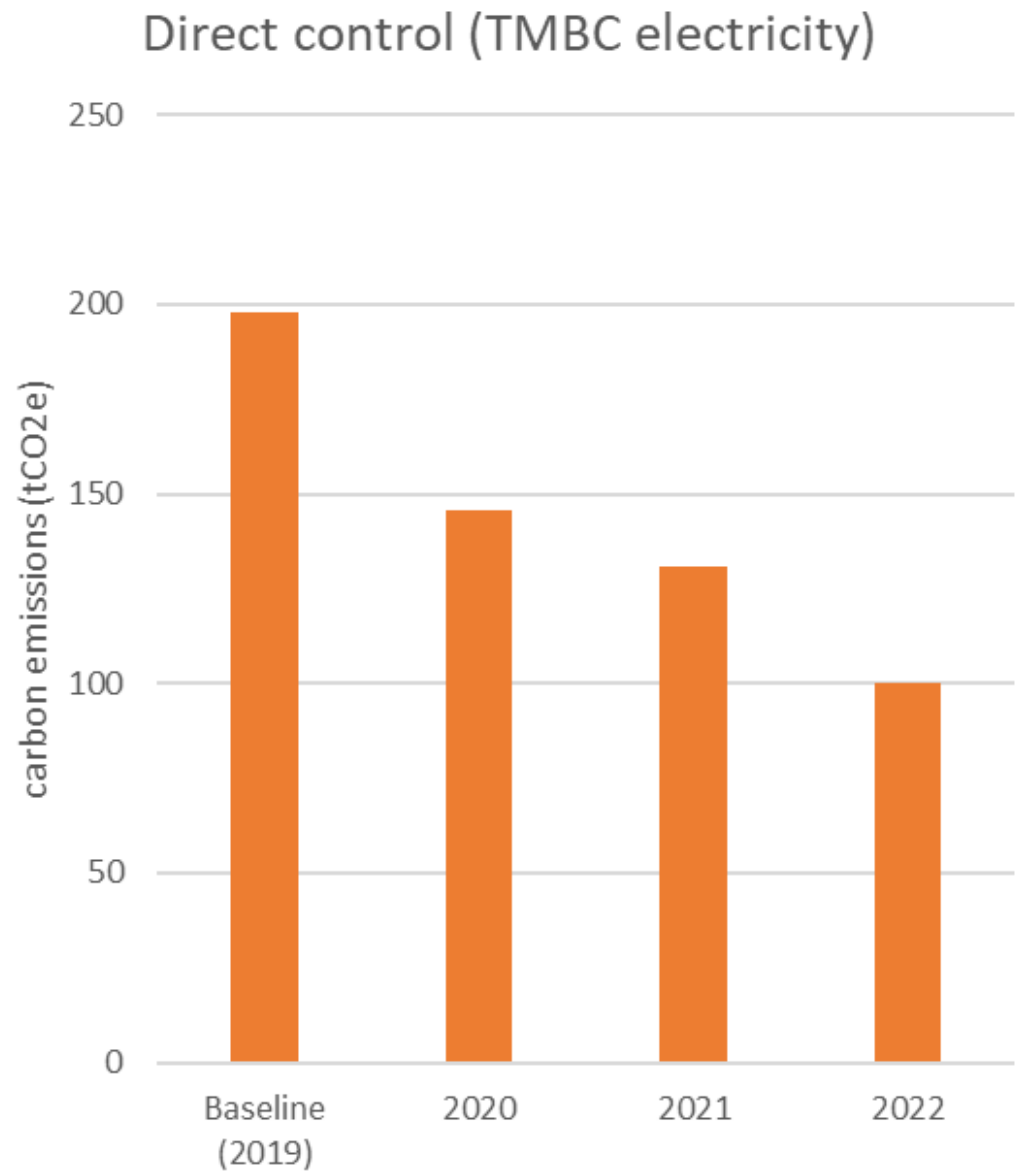
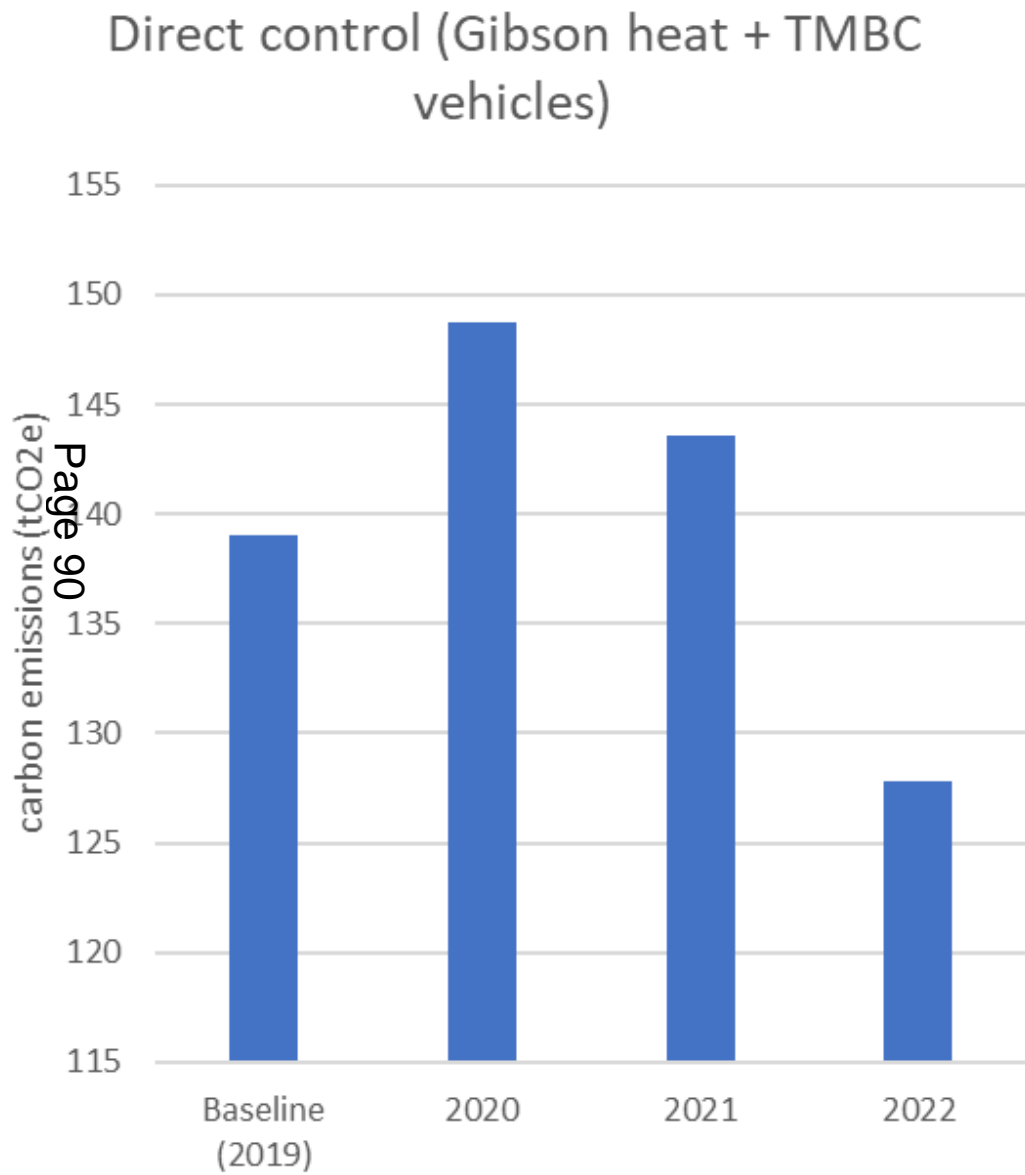


Emissions fell during COVID

- reduced business travel and commuting
- Leisure Centre closures



Sources of emissions under TMBC's direct control have fallen the most. Electricity emissions have been cut by half.



Tackling the major sources of emissions

Establishing commitments and initial climate action (2019 – 2023)

Bringing down emissions (2024 – 2026)

A pathway to 2030 (2027 – 2030)

2024- 2026 is an ambitious phase of investment and utilisation of grant funding to tackle the major sources of emissions

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Emissions breakdown (tCO2e)	Baseline (2019)	2020	2021	2022	% change from baseline
Scope 1					
Gas consumption (Gibson)	122.8	129.5	125.1	118.5	-4%
TMBC vehicles	16.2	19.3	18.5	9.4	-42%
Scope 2					
Electricity use	198.0	145.6	131.0	99.9	-50%
Scope 3					
Leisure Trust	1,805.1	1,355.8	1,825.0	1,830.4	1%
Refuse Collection Vehicles	1,028.6	1,014.4	998.7	1,117.4	9%
Business travel and staff commuting	387.0	177.3	184.0	183.1	-53%
Grounds Maintenance contract	26.7	31.3	29.5	28.7	8%
Other (e.g. water, transmission losses)	19.3			9.7	-50%
Total gross emissions	3,603.7	2,886.6	3,323.6	3,397.1	-6%

Emissions increased over baseline

Tackling emissions from vehicle fuel use, and heating and electricity at leisure sites with pools will have a significant impact

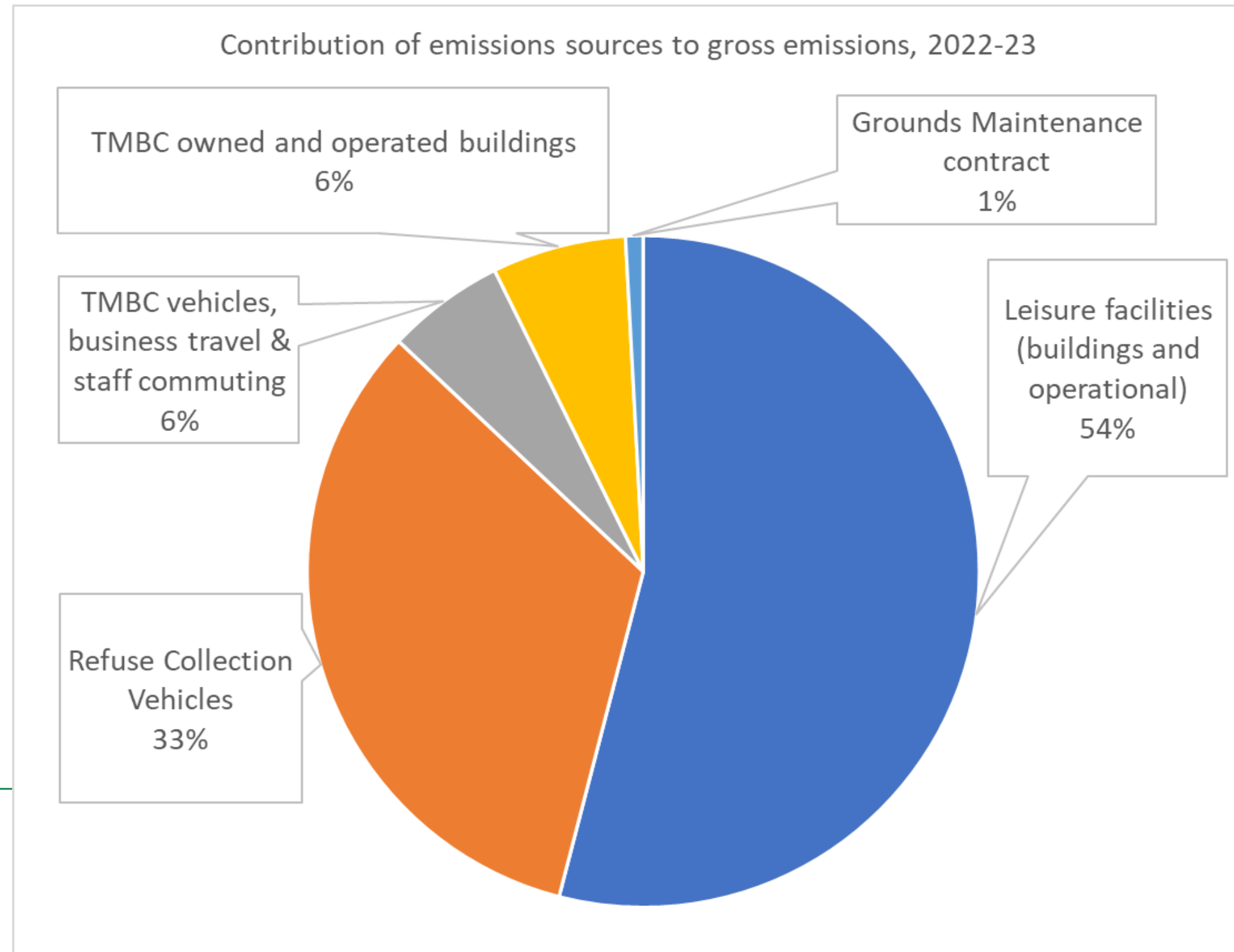
2022-23	tCO2e	% gross emissions
Leisure facilities with pools - gas	944	28%
Leisure facilities with pools - electricity	440	13%
Other Leisure Trust operated sites, gas	244	7%
Other Leisure Trust operated sites, electricity	160	5%
Refuse Collection Vehicles	1,117	33%
TMBC owned and operated buildings - gas	118	3%
TMBC owned and operated buildings - electricity	100	3%
TMBC business travel and commuting	183	5%
TMBC owned vehicles	9	0%
Grounds Maintenance contract	29	1%

Leisure centres with pools = 41% of total emissions

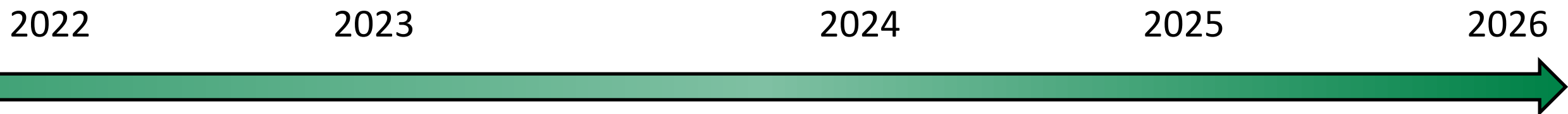
Funding is in place and projects are progressing to reduce leisure facility emissions by 2026

87% of TMBC emissions come from leisure facilities and Refuse Collection Vehicles

Leisure Trust climate change strategy and action plan 2024 - 2027 supports TMBC investments in decarbonising buildings.



Investments in solar generation and energy efficiency measures have already been made, with heat decarbonisation on the way



Works completed (TMBC funded)

Works in progress: £1.5m grant funding & TMBC contribution

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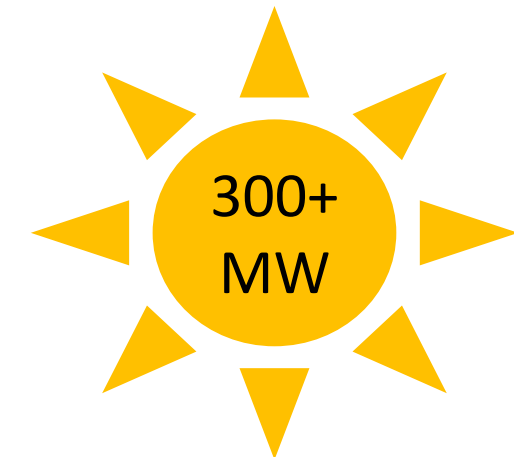
Solar panels on TMBC owned buildings

Leybourne Lakes café

Larkfield Leisure Centre (fitness pool roof)

Tonbridge Swimming Pool

Larkfield Leisure Centre (other viable roofs)



Heat decarbonisation

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme: grant funding award to TMBC for heat pumps at Larkfield Leisure Centre

A pathway to 2030

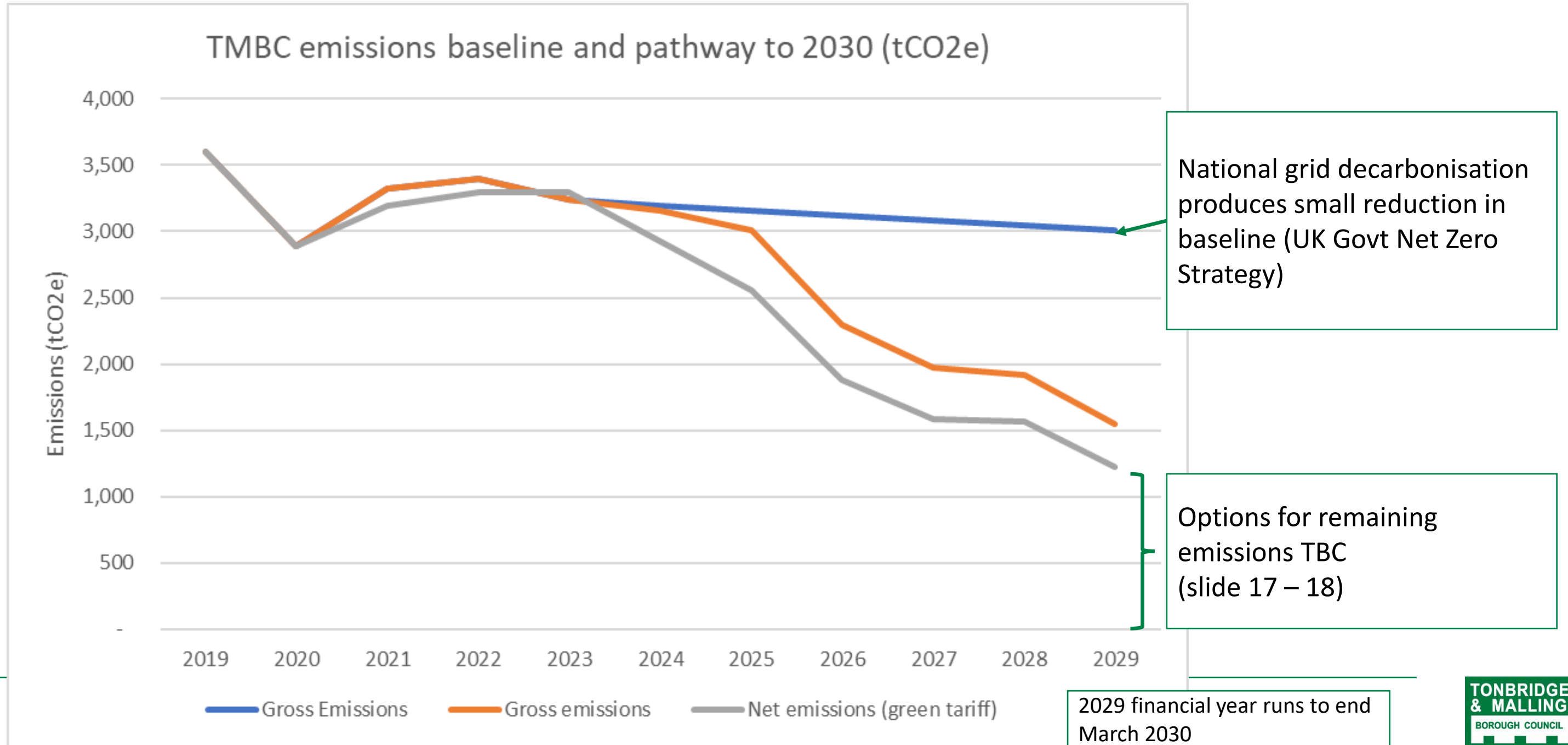
Establishing commitments and initial climate action (2019 – 2023)

Bringing down emissions (2024 – 2026)

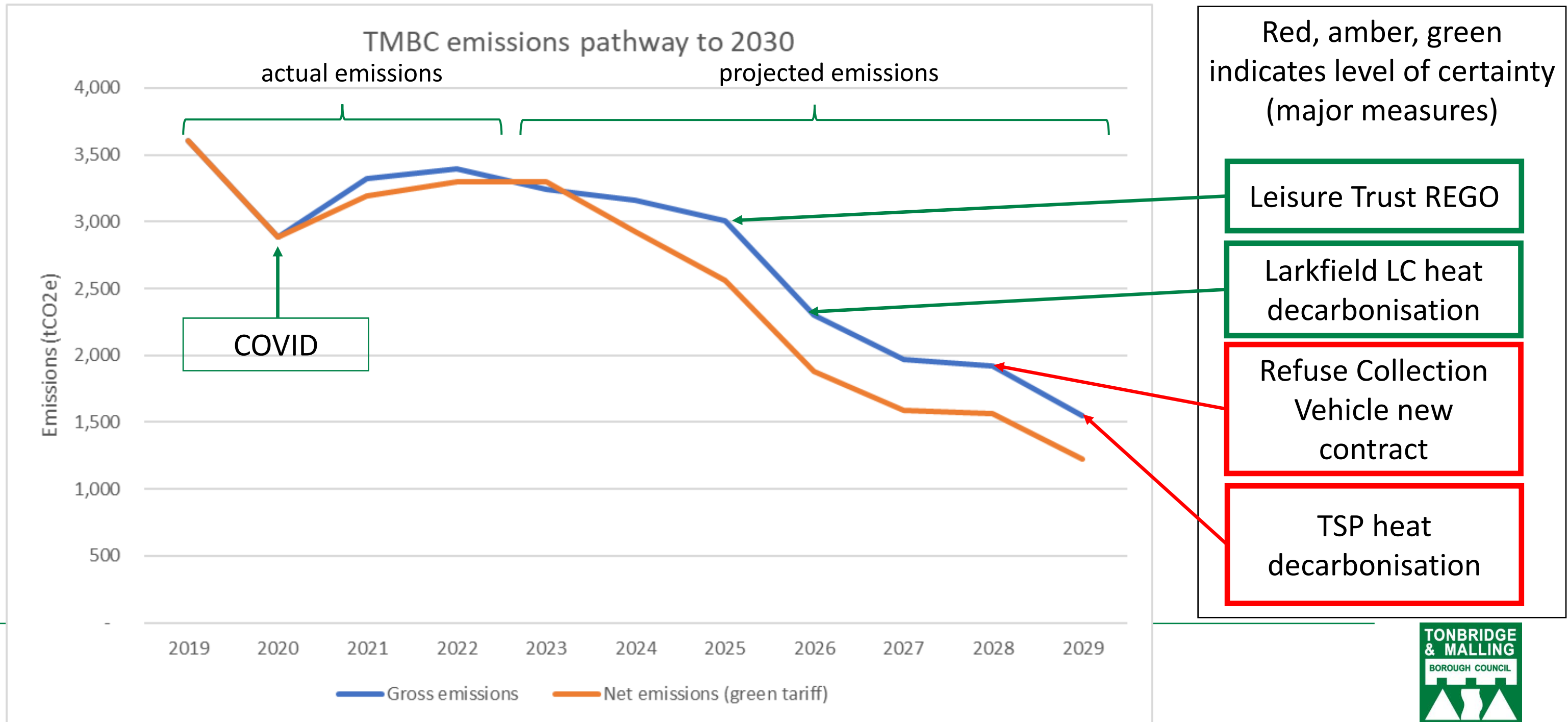
A pathway to 2030 (2027 – 2030)

Emissions reduction baseline and pathway to 2030

Draft: assumptions to be tested with services and costed



Decarbonisation to 2030: tackling indirect emissions that are high cost, technically challenging, or locked into contracts



Pathway assumptions: major sources of emissions

Emissions source	Measure	Current status	Level of confidence	'go further' option
Leisure sites with swimming pools	Heat decarbonisation	LLC – funded in place 2026 TSP – solution TBD	✓ ~	n/a Complete heat decarbonisation in 2027 or 28
	Renewable generation	LLC & TSP already in place and funded	✓ ✓	n/a
	Improved energy efficiency	LLC & TSP – funded in place by 2026 TMLT climate change action plan	✓ ✓	n/a
	REGO electricity contract	Service and TMLT to discuss	~	n/a
Other leisure facilities	REGO electricity contract	Service and TMLT to discuss	~	Renewables and heat decarbonisation at all tactive sites
Refuse Collection Vehicles	70/30 diesel / HVO (biodiesel) split from 2027	Service to investigate feasibility in due course	~	Technical feasibility and cost of higher biofuel and/or elec to be investigated

Pathway assumptions: other emissions reduction measures

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Emissions source	Measure	Current status	Level of confidence	'go further' option
Gibson building	Rationalisation (Gibson E only from 2025-6) and heat decarbonisation	Agreement on covenant with KCC, Gibson project restarting	✓	Solar generation at Gibson
All TMBC buildings	10% p.a. improved energy efficiency		✓	Solar generation at Castle (not on gas)
TMBC business travel	EV car pool, 20% of site visits, rising to 50% by 2030	Services to discuss	~	More EV available so faster uptake / more than 50% uptake by 2030
TMBC commuting	EV salary sacrifice scheme (10% staff uptake p.a.)	Option in development	~	Higher uptake, or further incentives (e.g. free charging at office for staff)
Parking Vehicles	Replaced with EV as per capital plan by 2030	On track for EV replacements in 2024-25	✓	Faster than capital plan Switch to EV for non-parking vehicles if technically feasible
Grounds Maintenance contract	10% emissions reductions p.a.	Contract is currently out to tender	✓	Depends on responses to ITT

There are some remaining emissions and additional pressures to consider moving towards 2030

The draft pathway produces around 1,200tCO₂e net emissions in 2029 /30

Tackling these emissions could take place through a combination of:

- tree coverage
- ideas from services about tackling smaller sources that all add up
- 'go further' measures in the previous slides, although some of these may not be feasible, for example,
 - shifting to EV for some non-parking vehicles and machinery, where these do not exist on the market
 - HVO and electric refuse collection fleet costly and poses technical challenges

Major redevelopment and new-build projects will create short-term upward pressures on emissions, but longer-term reductions.

Some sources of emissions are not 'counted' in the carbon audit (e.g. procurement and staff working from home). If these were included, the baseline and pathway would need to be recalculated.

Summary

Reaching carbon neutral 2030 will require:

- **Major decarbonisation projects**, e.g.
 - Heat decarbonisation at swimming pool sites
 - Refuse Collection Vehicles emissions reductions
- **Steady emissions reductions**, e.g.
 - Energy efficiencies at all sites and operations
 - Heat decarbonisation at Gibson
 - Continued switching to EVs for business travel and staff commuting
 - Renewable energy contracts
 - Continuous innovations and new ideas to 2030

Pathway needs monitoring and updating as measures are developed, funded and delivered.

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE – UPCOMING MATTERS

2024

C=Council; CAB = Cabinet; DEL = Delegated to Committee; INFO = matters for information. Cabinet are responsible for ALL Key Decisions (KD). Some Non-Key Decisions (NKD) can be taken by Cabinet Members outside of the meeting.

DECISION (TITLE)	DESCRIPTION	C/CAB/ DEL /INFO	KD/NKD	CAB MEMBER DN Y/N	PART 1 OR 2	MEETING DATE	OFFICER IN PERSON ATTENDANCE Y/N
Carbon Audit	Measurement and monitoring of emissions from TMBC own estate and operations	Info			1	17 July 2024	yes
Climate Change Action Plan	Report seeking Member approval for the 2024/25 Climate Change Action Plan	CAB	NKD	Y	1		Yes
Climate Change Progress Update 23/24	Endorse progress made against actions in the 23/24 Climate Change Action Plan	CAB	NKD	Y	1		Yes
Tonbridge Castle Update							
Health Priorities for Tonbridge & Malling BC	Priorities for improving health across TMBC emerging from the Health Action Team and to feed into wider KCC Public Health delivery plan and Integrated Care Strategy	CAB	NKD	Y	1		Yes
Key Performance Indicators (TBC)	Standing Item	Info					
Work Programme	Standing item	Info					

Agenda Item 12

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

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Agenda Item 13

The Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any items the publication of which would disclose exempt information.

**ANY REPORTS APPEARING AFTER THIS PAGE CONTAIN EXEMPT
INFORMATION**

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Agenda Item 14

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent due to special circumstances and of which notice has been given to the Chief Executive.

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