

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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

9 July 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, 17th July, 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

DAMIAN ROBERTS

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

1. Guidance for the Conduct of Meetings

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PART 1 - PUBLIC

2. Apologies for absence
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4. Declarations of interest 11 - 12

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 13 - 18

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee held on 22 May 2024

Matters for Recommendation to the Cabinet

6. Climate Change Monitoring and Reporting 19 - 64

To seek approval for publication of the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 Progress Report, the Climate Change Action Plan Year 5 2024/25, and the Carbon Audit 2023/24.

7. Health Priorities 65 - 68

The Council's Health Action Team has agreed three health priorities to focus on and feed into a Kent and Medway shared delivery plan which underpins the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy. Members are asked to endorse the priorities and note how the Council plan to move forward in tackling this important agenda.

8. Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan Consultation 69 - 94

This report brings forward comments received as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan. The Committee is invited to consider the responses and make recommendations on any proposed amendments to the Plan to Cabinet.

Due to its size, the Management Plan (Annex 3) is published as a supplement.

Matters submitted for Information

9. Work Programme 2024 95 - 96

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.

10. Urgent Items 97 - 98

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

11. Exclusion of Press and Public 99 - 100

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

12. Urgent Items 101 - 102

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

Cllr S A Hudson (Chair)
Cllr Mrs S Bell (Vice-Chair)

Cllr A G Bennison
Cllr S Crisp
Cllr Mrs T Dean
Cllr F A Hoskins
Cllr J R S Lark
Cllr A McDermott

Cllr W E Palmer
Cllr M R Rhodes
Cllr Mrs M Tatton
Cllr K S Tunstall
Vacancy (Green appointment - TBC)

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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Community and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee – Substitute Members (if required)

	Conservative	Liberal Democratic	Green	Ind. Kent Alliance	Labour
1	Chris Brown	David Thornewell	Lee Athwal		Paul Hickmott
2	Roger Dalton	Roger Roud	Kath Barton		Wayne Mallard
3	Dave Davis	Garry Bridge	Anna Cope		
4	Dennis King	Tim Bishop	Mark Hood		
5	Colin Williams	Paul Boxall	Robert Oliver		

Members of Cabinet cannot be appointed as a substitute to this Committee

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Declarations of interest

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024

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

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

Virtual: Councillors L Athwal, M A Coffin, Mrs A S Oakley and K B Tanner participated via MS Teams in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S Bell (Vice-Chair) and K S Tunstall.

CE 24/12 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Notification of substitute members were recorded as set out below:

- Councillor C Williams substituted for Councillor S Bell
- Councillor D King substituted for Councillor K Tunstall

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

CE 24/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

CE 24/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee held on 7 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS FOR CORPORATE MONITORING

CE 24/15 CORPORATE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The report of the Interim Chief Executive provided data on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that were aligned to the Corporate Strategy 2023 – 2027 and monitored on a quarterly basis. The data provided related to the period up to the end of March 2024 and aimed to provide analysis about the performance of the Borough Council and support its improvement.

Members noted a number of positive trends in respect of attendance at the leisure facilities, referrals to One You Service, reported Anti-Social Behaviour cases and waste collection. Conversely, recycling and composting rates and fly tipping incidents had seen a negative trend, despite the fact that in the case of the latter the borough continued to perform well in comparison to other areas of Kent. Further detail on these trends were set out at 1.1.2 to 1.1.6 of the report.

Questions were raised over KPI Ref 029 regarding the number of prosecutions for fly tipping incidents and KPI Refs 021 – 023 regarding the timing for availability of the data and these would be investigated and responded to in due course.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

CE 24/16 GRAFFITI UPDATE

The report of the Interim Chief Executive provided an update on the work to tackle graffiti in the borough, including feedback from the public consultation and the development of a graffiti policy.

With regard to the idea of a 'graffiti wall', Members noted that at present there was lack of evidence to prove the effectiveness of graffiti walls in reducing the incidents of illegal tagging within an area. Furthermore, operational and financial concerns in respect of the establishment and maintenance of a graffiti wall were also flagged.

Consideration was given to a draft Graffiti Policy, attached at Annex 2, which sought to clarify the responsibilities in respect of graffiti clearance and removal. Whilst the Borough Council did not have a statutory duty to remove graffiti on privately owned property, work with Community Payback scheme was ongoing with a view to removing graffiti from privately owned properties if deemed suitable and appropriate. Introduction of the Policy was welcomed by Members with particular reference made to its communication for awareness of members of the public and the wider community.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the lack of evidence of the effectiveness of graffiti walls to reduce illegal tagging be acknowledged; and
- (3) the Graffiti Policy, attached at Annex 2, be adopted.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 24/17 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2024 - 2025

(Decision Notice D240049MEM)

The report of the Interim Chief Executive presented a draft Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024/25, which gave details of the initiatives the Partnership had carried out during the previous year and set out details of the priorities for the forthcoming year.

Particular attention was drawn to the six priorities set by the Partnership for 2024/25, as detailed in 1.1.4 of the report, and it was noted that an Action Plan had been developed with partners for each of the priorities, as part of the Partnership Plan, and would be progressed during the year and monitored by the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group.

Members welcomed the positive progress arising from the successful projects over the year and supported future actions as set out in the Plan for the next year.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2024/25, attached at Annex 1, be supported and endorsed.

***Decision Taken by Cabinet Member**

CE 24/18 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA STATUS UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(Decision Notice D240050MEM)

The report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health presented the monitoring results at the six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the borough and recommended revocation of the M20 AQMA in accordance with the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 2022 document (TG22), which provided the current statutory guidance as to how local authorities

should comply with the relevant legislation to monitor and tackle air pollution.

Members noted that, according to the TG22, there should not be any declared AQMAs for which compliance with the relevant objective (annual mean NO₂ concentrations being lower than 36 µg/m³, i.e. within 10% of the annual mean NO₂ objective) had been achieved for a consecutive 5-year period, which had been the case for the M20 AQMA, and if the respective NO₂ levels remained consistent in 2024 in the case of the other AQMAs with the exception of the Watringbury AQMA, they would also be recommended for review and revocation in 2025.

Furthermore, it was clarified that air quality monitoring across the borough, including within the current AQMAs, would continue following the revocation as recommended.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the M20 Air Quality Management Area be revoked; and
- (2) the status of the Air Quality Management Areas in Tonbridge High Street, Aylesford, Larkfield and Borough Green be acknowledged and reviewed again in 2025 with a view to revocation should monitoring results for 2024 be conducive.

***Decision Taken by Cabinet Member**

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CE 24/19 DEVELOPING A PATHWAY TO CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030

The report of the Interim Chief Executive presented Members with information on a modelled pathway of emissions reductions for major measures of the Borough Council to carbon neutral in 2030.

Members noted that the pathway was not a detailed analysis of all emissions sources, nor a commitment to particular action or a fully costed action plan, but a tool to bring together emissions reduction decisions taken service-by-service to present a picture of overall progress and would be subject to change over time.

The TMBC Pathway, attached at Annex 1, showed a potential route towards the carbon neutral by 2030 aspiration, modelled using credible assumptions that remained high level at this stage. It showed RAG ratings for each of the major emission sources and made clear the level of uncertainty for the major measures.

Particular reference was made to the Borough Council's successful bidding for the £1.5 million grants through the Sport England Swimming

Pool Support Fund and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to support the energy efficiency measures to be implemented at the leisure facilities.

Overall, Members welcomed the positive progress made and recognised the challenges ahead whilst acknowledging the importance of keep all options under investigation and exploration.

CE 24/20 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 24/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no matters considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.33 pm

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

17 July 2024

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

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

1 CLIMATE CHANGE MONITORING AND REPORTING

To seek approval for publication of the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 Progress Report, the Climate Change Action Plan Year 5 2024/25, and the Carbon Audit 2023/24.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 TMBC has committed to producing annual climate change action plans and publishing our greenhouse gas emissions (Carbon Audits) to track progress towards the council's carbon neutral by 2030 aspiration. A Progress Report for the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 (2023/24), a draft Climate Change Action Plan Year 5 (2024/25), and the Carbon Audit for year 3 (2022/23) are attached as Annexes 1, 2 and 3 respectively. This report summarises progress achieved to date, the new action plan and trends in emissions from the Council's estate and operations.

1.1.2 The most significant sources of emissions across TMBC's estate and operations remain leisure facilities and refuse collection vehicles. Addressing emissions from these sources will make the largest impact on emissions towards the 2030 carbon neutral aspiration. There is no 'quick win' for tackling these emissions. The council will need to further investigate technically and practically feasible options for heat and vehicle fuel use, as well as making substantial investments and use of grant funding, as set out in this report and its Annexes.

1.2 Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 Progress Report

1.2.1 The annual report on delivery of the climate change action plan is attached in Annex 1. The report highlights the key achievements from the 2023/24 action plan in two sections: tackling emissions on TMBC's own estate and operations and tackling emissions across the Borough. The annual progress report includes the detailed monitoring report against the full action plan in its annex.

- 1.2.2 The report shows good progress on climate action delivery for 2023/24, with over a third of actions completed for the year, with the rest ongoing as multi-year projects. No actions have a red RAG rating.

1.3 Climate Change Action Plan Year 5 2024-25

- 1.3.1 The climate change action plan for 2024/25 contains ongoing items, new phases of multi-year projects, and new actions. Key ongoing actions include the Local Plan; the installation of further EV charge points in council-owned car parks; the roll-out of food waste recycling to flats; support for renewable, retrofit and energy efficiency measures for home-owners and social housing in the borough; and further rounds of business and community grants.
- 1.3.2 Five of the new actions are under the TMBC Estate theme that includes the decarbonization of leisure facilities using the Sports England Support Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grants awarded to the council for use in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 1.3.3 Other new actions include the roll-out of energy efficient devices, working with Mid Kent College to support the delivery of Retrofit Training and future green jobs, and monitoring and enhancement of habitats and wildlife areas on council owned land.

1.4 Carbon Audit 2023-24

- 1.4.1 The Carbon Audit is a statement of the emissions produced by the council's own estate, operations, and activities for the year. The 2023/24 Carbon Audit presents the high-level picture of emissions since the baseline of 2019, a detailed breakdown of emissions by council activity, and provides a discussion of significant changes in emissions. The Carbon Audit 2023/24 is presented in annex 3 of this report. It shows that total gross emissions have fallen by 8% relative to the baseline, while total net emissions (that do not count emissions from renewable sources) have fallen by 10%.
- 1.4.2 The 2023/24 carbon audit shows continued strong reductions in emissions that the council has the most direct control over. These are emissions from the estate that the council owns and operates, such as the Gibson buildings and Tonbridge Castle, and emissions from the council's own vehicles. Emissions from these sources are known as scopes 1 and 2. Gross emissions from scopes 1 and 2 were 44% below baseline in 2023/24. These significant reductions are due to the rationalisation of Gibson office space, increased home-working, reduced printing and more efficient devices, and the investment in an electric parking enforcement vehicle.
- 1.4.3 The council also has a Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin contract for its electricity, meaning that emissions from electricity use at sites covered by this contract are effectively zero. Taking this into account means that net emissions from scopes 1 and 2 in 2023/24 were 67% lower than the baseline.

- 1.4.4 Indirect emissions from the council's estate and operations are known as scope 3. This includes emissions from leisure facilities, council contracts, and staff travel. Scope 3 continues to account for the lion's share of emissions, at 94% of total gross emissions in 2023/24. Total scope 3 emissions have fallen by only 4% since the baseline.
- 1.4.5 The most significant sources of scope 3 emissions, and therefore emissions from the whole of TMBC's estate and operations, are leisure facilities and the Refuse Collection Vehicle contract. Together, these sources produced 91% of TMBC's total net emissions in 2023/24, and 94% of emissions from scope 3. The climate change action plans, as noted above, set out the council's ongoing investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures to tackle emissions from leisure facilities.
- 1.4.6 Although other sources in scope 3 account for only a small proportion of the overall total, it is worth noting that emissions from staff commuting continue to fall even though home-working rates are similar over the last two years. Staff commuting by car emissions fell 30% from 2022/23 to 2023/24 representing continuing changes in travel patterns, such as increased car pooling, and an increase in staff switching to electric vehicles.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 None.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 The activities in the climate change action plans and carbon audit are funded, or have been completed using funding, grant monies and value for money assessments previously agreed with the relevant service.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 TMBC has committed to the aspiration of carbon neutral by 2030 and to annual reporting on action plan progress and monitoring emissions. There is a reputational risk of non-publication of the annexes to this report.

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 Climate Change

1.10 Recommendations

1.10.1 That the Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 Progress Report as set out in annex 1 of this report BE ENDORSED.

1.10.2 That the Climate Change Action Plan Year 5 2024-25 as set out in annex 3 of this report BE APPROVED.

1.10.3 That the Carbon Audit for 2023-24 as set out in annex 2 of this report BE APPROVED.

The 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:

contact: Carrie Spencer

Annex 1: Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 Progress Report

Annex 2: draft Climate Change Action Plan Year 5, 2024-25

Annex 3: Carbon Audit 2023 -24

Damian Roberts
Chief Executive

Climate Change Action Plan Year 4 Progress Report

2023-24



Solar panels on the roof of Tonbridge Swimming Pool

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1. Introduction

Each year the council publishes a climate change action plan that sets out what we will do to reduce emissions and make progress toward carbon neutral by 2030. Full Council in July 2019 adopted the aspiration for a carbon neutral Tonbridge and Malling by 2030. This aspiration is ambitious and requires commitment throughout the council from everyday actions in how we work, to larger scale investments to tackle the most significant sources of emissions. The council’s Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030 sets out the key themes in reaching carbon neutral by 2030: sustainable development; transport; air quality; habitats and biodiversity; energy from households (gas, electricity, and renewables); waste minimisation and recycling; and community and business engagement.

Annual climate change action plans cover the themes from the Strategy and the council’s activities including how we work and deliver services, partnerships, community working and grant funding. This annual report sets out the progress made in delivering the 2023-24 climate change action plan.

Successful climate change action means making measurable reductions in emissions, and improving readiness and resilience to the impacts of climate change. Emissions data for the borough as a whole is published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero with a two-year time-lag. Borough wide emissions are reported through the KPIs for the Corporate Strategy.

Emissions from the council’s estate and operations are measured annually and published in the Carbon Audit. This climate change action plan progress report can be read alongside the Carbon Audit for 2023-24 to see how climate change actions have reduced emissions from the council’s own estate and operations.

The Council publishes its [Climate Change Action Plans and Progress Reports](#) and [carbon audits](#) on the TMBC website. We aim to publish the latest annual reports by the end of July each year.

2. Progress in 2023-24

The council made significant progress during 2023-24 on actions to reduce emissions and tackle climate change. Improving energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy generation, awarding grants to support low-carbon actions by businesses and communities, and working in partnership are all having a positive impact on tackling carbon emissions.

The 2023-24 climate change action plan contained 44 separate actions of which 28 (roughly two-thirds) are ongoing and 16 (roughly a third) have been completed. Ongoing actions are typically multi-year projects, such as home retrofit under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, or have their own published timetables separate to the start and end of the action plan, such as the development of the Local Plan.

Table 1: RAG rating of climate change actions by theme (see Annex for complete monitoring information)

	Policy & Engagement	Sustainable Development & Transport*	ULEV (Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles)	Air Quality	Habitats & Biodiversity	Housing & energy conservatoin	Waste Minimisation & Recycling	Community & Business Engagement	TMBC estate	All actions
% complete	29%	0%	0%	0%	60%	60%	33%	43%	57%	36%
% ongoing	71%	100%	100%	100%	40%	40%	67%	57%	43%	64%
% stalled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Sustainable Development & Transport timelines are set by the published timetable for the emerging Local Plan.

This annual report presents the significant climate change actions and impacts on reducing emissions. The complete monitoring report on all actions is provided in the Annex.

2.1 TMBC estate and operations

Tackling major sources of emissions

In TMBC's owned estate and operations, leisure facilities are the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The council has made significant investments in the two leisure facilities with swimming pools that together accounted for 41% of all council emissions in 2022-23. These sites are Tonbridge Swimming Pool and Larkfield Leisure Centre.

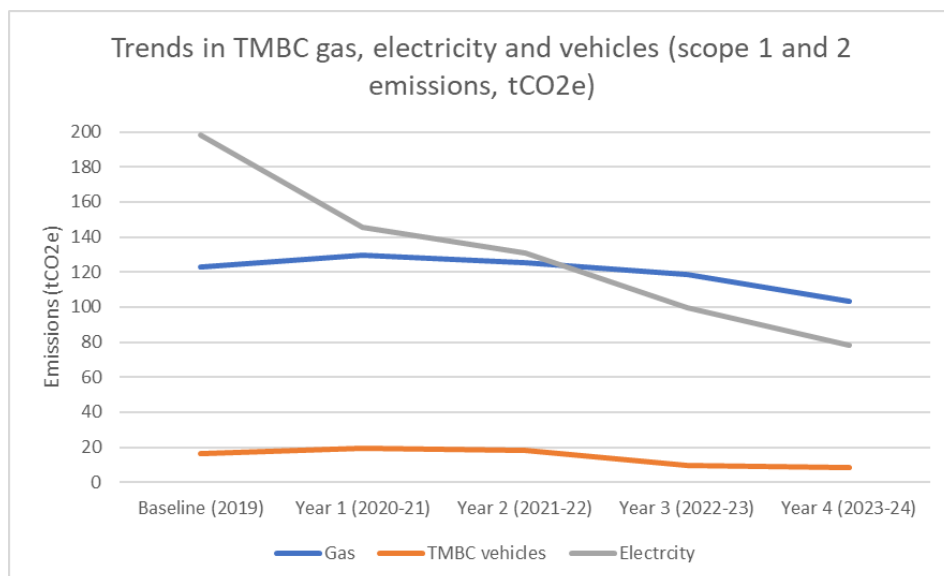
Significant progress has been made at Tonbridge Swimming Pool, delivering against the 2023-24 climate change action plan. The installation of LED lighting throughout the site is complete, along with the installation of 149 solar panels with an annual generation capacity of 65.6MWh (see page 13 of Annex). The council has now invested in the successful installation of solar panels at three of its leisure sites: Leybourne Lakes Country Park, Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool. Together these investments represent a total renewable energy generation capacity of 310MWh.

Tackling emissions through renewable energy, decarbonising heat, and efficiency measures will progress at Larkfield Leisure Centre following the award of two grants to the Council, totalling over £1.5 million for works to be completed by March 2026. The Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund will be used to complete installation of LED lighting and installation of further solar panels on remaining viable roofs. Additionally, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme will be used, along with match funding from the Council, to install an air source heat pump at Larkfield Leisure Centre. Having secured grant funding in 2023-24, these actions are ongoing as detailed in the 2024-25 climate change action plan. Operational emissions savings at leisure facilities will be supported through the Leisure Trust's Climate Change Strategy 2024 -2027 and action plan.

How the council works and delivers services

The council has continued to make good progress in decarbonising emissions produced directly at the sites the council both owns and operates, such as its main offices and Tonbridge Castle, and from its own vehicles. Key actions that have been completed during 2023-24 include the completion of a Digital Strategy and device policy (see page 14 of Annex). Figure 1 shows the reduction in gas and electricity use for heading TMBC owned and operated buildings, and the reduction in emissions from TMBC owned vehicles. Since the 2019 baseline, emissions from gas use have been cut by 16% and emissions from electricity by 61%, outpacing grid decarbonisations and demonstrating the impact of efficiency measures and investments. Although the council did not purchase further electric vehicles in 2023-24, in line with the capital replacement schedule, continuing use of an electric vehicle has sustained the reduction in vehicle emissions relative to the 2019 baseline.

Figure 1: Trends in emissions (tCO2e) from gas, electricity and vehicles owned and operated by TMBC.



Actions to decarbonise the TMBC fleet and to continue the roll-out of more energy efficient devices, digitisation and mobile solutions are ongoing (see pages 4 and 14 of the Annex). The emissions impact of these and other actions to improve energy efficiency in how we work and deliver services will continuously reduce emissions over the next few years.

Habitats & Biodiversity

The council has also delivered against the theme of Habitats & Biodiversity on its own estate, planting reedbeds at Haysden Country Park, hedgerows at Holly Hill, and replacing trees felled for management of Ash dieback to ensure a net increase in the number of trees (see page 6 of Annex). Good progress has been made on bringing Taddington Valley under woodland management with a public consultation on the council's plans completed. A woodland management plan for the site has been developed and submitted to the Forestry Commission for approval.

2.2 Climate action across the Borough

Housing & Energy Conservation

The council has continued to successfully deliver schemes and grants to support renewable energy, retrofit and decarbonisation for both private and social housing. Further rounds of the group-buying Solar Together scheme took place in Spring and Autumn 2023 (see page 7 of Annex). These have resulted in a total of 123 solar PV and 4 battery installations to date. Installations are continuing across Kent until the end of June 2024.

The council has also been working with Golding Homes and Clarion Housing Group to deliver retrofit and energy efficiency measures using allocated funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (see page 7 of Annex). Following the establishment and early work of these schemes in 2023-24, delivery of retrofit and energy efficiency measures in homes in the borough will continue through 2024-25.

Support for decarbonising is also available for homes that are 'off gas grid' and using other fossil fuels for heating. The council is working to deliver Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) funding to low-income households for multiple measures to decarbonise non-gas fossil fuel heating, improve insulation and install solar panels (see page 7 of Annex). The delivery of these measures under HUG2 also continues to March 2025.

For other residents, the council has also updated and improved the information available on our climate change and energy efficiency webpages.

Waste Minimisation & Recycling

Significant progress has been made this year to boost food waste recycling. The trial of food waste collection from flats has been completed successfully, with the roll out of food waste recycling to key urban hotspots throughout 2024 - 2025 (see page 10 of Annex). This was also supported by a comms campaign, information and myth-busting about food waste recycling on a new council webpage <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/food-recycling> (see page 12 of Annex).

The council has also continue to participate in Kent-wide action and campaigns as the previous Kent Resource Partnership was reformed into the Kent Environment Strategy Group. This change will streamline the work between the groups to ensure a Kent-wide Climate Action focus remains within Waste & Recycling through improvements, resident communication and sharing platforms for all 13 council partners and wider industry (see page 10 of Annex).

Community & Business Engagement

The council has delivered further successes in supporting local businesses to tackle emissions through providing up to date information, resources and grant information. Grant funding for business from the council has been delivered through two schemes, the Green Business Grants and the Shopfront and Vacant Unit Improvement Grant Scheme (see page 11 of Annex). For both grants, the 2023-24 rounds of funding were delivered and completed successfully. Further rounds are on track for delivery in the 2024-25 financial year.

Businesses and residents are being enabled to take action to decarbonise their travel and transport through the continuing roll-out of electric vehicle (EV) charge points in council-owned car parks across the borough (see page 4 of Annex). In 2023-24 the existing EV charge points in council-owned car parks were used to provide 84.5MWh to power electric vehicles in the borough. The provision of EV charging infrastructure and new charge points through Phase 2 will support efforts and investments by businesses, residents, and visitors to the borough to make the switch to low carbon travel.

Annex 1: action plan 2023-24 monitoring

Climate Change Action Plan 2023/24

YEAR FOUR MONITORING REPORT

Key		
Completed	Ongoing	Not Started / Stalled

Policy and Engagement

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Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council.	Review Council's procurement strategy and develop guidance and/or tools to embed climate and environment within contracted works and services	March 2024	Ongoing	The Council has joined the Mid Kent Procurement Partnership that includes strategies, policies and processes for procurement to embed climate and environment in contracted works and services. The action remains ongoing while documentation and procedure are developed within the Partnership and reported to Members for approval.
	Develop climate change training induction module and a course that can lead to Carbon Literacy accreditation for Members and TMBC staff. Deliver training to key staff by Jan 2024, offering the courses on an ongoing basis.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Induction and climate change strategy modules have been developed and delivered to over half of the Borough's Councillors, including Cabinet, and to Management Team. Carbon literacy training continues to be delivered to staff several times a year.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
	Develop options for reducing car travel and emissions from TMBC own fleet, staff commuting and business travel	Feb 2024	Ongoing	There has been progress on developing options for reducing emissions from business and staff travel, and this work is ongoing into 2024.
Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate	Engage with KCC and other councils through Climate Change Network (CCN) meetings sharing case studies, best practice, and seeking areas of support and collaboration	Ongoing	Ongoing	TMBC's Climate Change Officer participates in KCC's Climate Change Network and relevant sub-groups to share case studies, best practice examples, and identify possible areas for collaboration.
	Continue to engage with the delivery of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy through TMBC's actions and partnership working.	Ongoing	Ongoing	TMBC continues to engage with the delivery of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy at local level and in partnership.
Monitor and report Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's carbon emissions	Ensure all Climate Change Action Plans, Progress Reports and Carbon Audits are easily accessible and published on the climate change webpage	Sept 23	Completed	All climate change action plans, progress reports and carbon audits are up to date and available on the TMBC website tmbc.gov.uk/climatechange
	Produce a TMBC carbon emissions pathway report to inform policy planning for carbon neutral by 2030.	Jan 24	Completed	A carbon emissions reduction pathway to 2030 and report was discussed by the May Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee.

Sustainable Development and Transport

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Sustainable Development	Continue to pursue planning policies in the Council's emerging Local Plan that will facilitate the delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation, design measures and sustainable development patterns, progressing to Regulation 18b and public consultation, drawing on updated evidence, including on green infrastructure and climate change.	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Planning Policy Team are currently drafting the next stage in the plan preparation – Regulation 18B Plan ready for the public consultation to begin in July 24. A suite of climate change policies has been written which seek to adapt and mitigate against climate change including flood risk, sustainable urban drainage, circular economy, water scarcity, design, sustainable transport and low carbon and renewable energy.
	Through the grant of planning permission, the Council will seek to deliver sustainable development outcomes in line with the adopted development plan, national policy and material planning considerations.	Ongoing	Ongoing	The development Management team are continuing to determine planning applications in line with the Council's adopted development plan and the NPPF and securing mitigation and adaption measures through planning conditions and section 106 agreements.
Transport Support the improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough	Complete preparation of the new active travel strategy which will include cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations.	Summer 2024	Ongoing	This work continues to progress alongside the preparation of the Local Plan, so that opportunities can be maximised to secure funding from future site allocations. No new grant funding for active travel is currently available, this may change in the future.

ULEV

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Provide electric charging points across the borough.	Deliver Phase 2 provision of an additional 60 chargers in the Council's car parks over the 2 year contract	May 25	Ongoing	Grants secured and sites identified. Delivery of chargers provisionally programmed to start in summer 2024.
Decarbonise TMBC owned vehicles	Undertake a vehicle replacement schedule (transitioning to ULEV) for all parking vehicles, in line where possible with the capital renewals programme and expected lifespan.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Additional funds secured and two vehicles proposed for replacement under Capital Renewals in 2024/25
Improve the environmental standards of licensed taxis operating in the borough.	Progress with taxi licencing policy renewal process through Licensing & Appeals committee followed by a minimum 6 weeks consultation with the trade and interested parties in Autumn 2023.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Still ongoing, the Licensing & Appeals committee were reluctant to develop the strategy too far out when the technology is so changeable.
	Provide wider information regarding taxi EV charging provision as those installations progress.	Ongoing	May/June 2024 & Ongoing	Following the next phase of installations, we will include information about numbers and locations of chargers across the Borough with the Taxi Trade in newsletters/email communications. These communications are sent out quarterly with the next due around May/June 2024.
	Continue engagement with KCC through the CCN regarding future taxi licencing. Share with trade and participate in schemes as appropriate, for example 'try before you buy'	Ongoing	Ongoing	KCC with the EST are looking to arrange a number of Events with the Let's go Electric Team. These events are to raise awareness with the public around the introduction and benefits of EV vehicles. There will be demo's from manufacturers and myth busting. Once the dates are confirmed, we will email details out to the Taxi trade to promote the event and encourage them to attend.
	Progress strategy for future of licenced taxi fleet through Licensing & Appeals committee report on air	Ongoing	Ongoing	Still ongoing, the Licensing & Appeals committee were reluctant to develop the strategy too far out when the technology is so changeable.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
	quality, changes in the licenced taxi vehicle fleet, and proposals for vehicle requirements to 2030. Develop a consultation to inform strategy through Autumn/ Winter 2023.			

Air Quality

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Continue the full implementation of a borough wide Anti-idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines.	Continue the anti-idling project by expanding to other schools, and areas where idling is an issue, including bus stops and taxi ranks, working to raise awareness of idling and air quality impacts. Assess air quality monitoring data and any observed behaviour changes.	March 24	Ongoing	Additional signage has been purchased and will be erected upon approval from KCC who own the street furniture. Engagement with schools continues ad hoc.

Habitats & Biodiversity

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Proceed with Reed Bed creation at Haysden Country Park.	March 24	Complete	Reeds were planted at Haysden Water during the spring of 2024, in partnership with Haysden Country Park Volunteers.
	Proceed with Holly Hill hedgerow creation.	March 24	Complete	Hedgerows were planted at Holly Hill during winter of 2023.
	Develop a woodland management plan for Taddington Valley in liaison with the Forestry Commission	Autumn 24	Ongoing	Public Consultation complete. Plan to be submitted to Forestry Commission for approval before adoption and implementation in Autumn 2024.
	Continue with the lakeside revetment works in liaison with volunteers.	June 23	Complete	Revetment works were completed with the help of Tonbridge School students as part of their 'Giving Day' initiative during the summer of 2023.
	Monitor trees planted to ensure establishment, and plant more trees are removed to ensure an annual net gain overall.	Ongoing	Ongoing	1900 mixed native species whips were donated to the Council. A large number of mature Ash trees had previously been removed following an external inspection due to advanced Ash dieback. Restocking the site with mixed native species will enhance biodiversity and resilience against future pests and diseases. Monitoring ongoing.

Housing & Energy Conservation

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes.	Assist with removing barriers for private sector households by working with Kent County Council to target promotion of the second round of 'Solar Together', a collective solar group purchasing scheme.	Ongoing	Complete	The Council undertook targeted promotion for both Spring and Autumn 2023 rounds of Solar Together: In the Spring auction 130 registrants accepted their Solar Together proposal resulting in 77 PV and 4 battery storage installations. In the Autumn auction 71 registrants accepted their Solar Together proposal resulting in 46 installations to date. Installations will continue across Kent until the end of June 2024.
Council working in partnership to deliver the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	Work with Clarion Housing Group and Golding Homes to deliver retrofit energy efficiency measures using allocated funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 for c 450 Clarion Housing properties across TMBC area and circa 60 Golding Homes properties in the Aylesford area.	March 26	Ongoing	Golding Homes have completed a Showhome. They will commence their SHDF Wave 2 retrofit programme (77 homes) in April 2024 installing air source heat pumps and new windows/doors. Homes already have fabric insulation. The programme is due to be completed in 2024/25. Clarion Homes advise their SHDF Wave 2 retrofit programme is circa 250 TMBC homes at current estimation with works due to commence in Autumn. Preparatory works and retrofit assessments have been completed for most of the homes to be included in the programme.
	Deliver retrofit energy efficiency measures through Home Upgrade Grant 2 targeting funding to c 60 low-income households living in low efficient 'off gas' homes (i.e., not using gas as main heating).	March 25	Ongoing	The Council is delivering HUG2 through two schemes operating in its borough both of which are being delivered by E.ON. Overall, the scheme is targeted to deliver retrofit to 48 homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMBC HUG scheme* (targeted to all postcodes except TN10 & TN11) has received 103 enquiries of which 20 have been pre-qualified for a property assessment to identify measures. We currently have 11 'live' applications progressing and expect our first property to be submitted for

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
				<p>grant approval May 2024. We continue to market the scheme in Year 2 to identify further eligible homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HUG2 consortia application* (comprising 47 LAs) lead by Greater Southeast Net Zero Hub (targeted to TN10 & TN11 postcodes) has received 14 enquiries, of which 7 have been pre-qualified for a property assessment to identify measures. <p>*Scheme figures up to 20 May 2024</p>
Support our residents by signposting to information on energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and funding schemes so they can make informed decisions.	<p>TMBC will continue to signpost households for advice on how to reduce energy usage in the home for example GOV.UK and Help for Households websites.</p>	Ongoing	Complete	<p>The Council will continue to signpost households for advice on how to reduce energy usage in the home. We have updated our energy efficiency webpage to signpost households to energy advice and information (see link below). The webpage provides details of both national and local energy efficiency and low carbon heat grants available for energy efficiency measures and low carbon heat, links to advice pages on GOV.UK, Historic England, consumer guidance on buying green heating and insulations products.</p> <p>Help to save energy – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (tmbc.gov.uk)</p>
	<p>Support any new provision of council owned temporary accommodation within the borough with feasibility studies to advise on potential for improved energy efficiency and any renewable potential.</p>	Ongoing	Complete	<p>There has been no provision of new local authority owned temporary accommodation this year.</p>

Waste Minimization & Recycling

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle.	Continue with Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) re-use campaigns, including promotion of food waste & garden waste collections; and ongoing promotions aimed at reducing contamination & increasing recycling performance.	March 24	Ongoing	The KRP has been amalgamated into the Kent Environment Strategy (KES) Group to ensure a Kent-wide Climate Action focus remains for Waste & Recycling improvements, resident communication and problem/idea sharing platforms for all 13 council partners and wider industry.
	Progression of waste and recycling contract, including rolling out to flats and trial of food waste collections in a number of communal bin stores.	March 24	Ongoing	Food Waste for flats trial complete and full roll out underway for key urban hotspots throughout 2024/2025.
	Launch KRP website and working with national partners such as WRAP and Recoup (plastic specific). https://www.kentresourcepartnership.org/ Continue development of KRP website.	Ongoing	Complete	The KRP site has been launched. Further information on the new amalgamated KES priorities for Waste & Recycling are forthcoming.

Community & Business Engagement

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Two further rounds of the Green Business Grant Scheme will make available a total of £95,000 in funding over the next two years. The current round (Round 3) launched April 2023. A further round will open in early 2024.	March 25	Round 3 completed	Round 3 has now completed with 7 out of the 8 projects delivering on time. Projects included PV installation, energy efficiency measures and R&D on converting classic cars to electric. Round 4 opened in January 2024 and will close on 27 March 2024. The panel will make their decisions on applications in early April 2024.
	Allocation of funding and ensure project delivery for current round (Round 3) of the Shopfront and Vacant Unit Improvement Grant Scheme. Launch of further round in early 2024.	March 25	Round 3 completed	Round 3 has now completed with 15 out of the 18 projects delivering on time. Round 4 closed for applications on 26 February 2024 with 20 projects recommended for approval.
	Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin, with at least 2 articles per annum	Ongoing	Ongoing	During 2023/24 there were a number of articles covering various aspects of the Climate Change Strategy – there was one providing an overview of the strategy and action plan early on in the financial year, followed by regular articles covering our commitment to carbon reduction.
	Work with KCC and local business to share and signpost information, support and grants for business carbon reduction	Ongoing	Ongoing	Regular referrals. Our Green Business Grant Scheme specifically enquires as to whether applicants want to find out more about other green grants and support.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.	Build collaborative working and public engagement with the Climate Change Forum (CCF), identifying areas for joint Council and community climate and environment action.	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Climate Change Forum held two public engagement events over summer 2023, and conducted a small-scale survey of residents views on climate priorities for the CCF. The CCF continues to work collaboratively on new opportunities for engagement and climate action.
Support communities, voluntary groups and Parishes in taking climate action	Launch Community Development Grants, part funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to support organisations based in the borough and/or providing a direct service to residents in line with community priorities.	March 24	Complete	Round 1 completed in June 2023 supporting community groups and Parish/Town Councils with grants of up to £2,000. "Supporting environmental and carbon reduction initiatives" was one of the priority areas for funding. Grant recipients completed Round 1 projects by March 2024. Round 2 grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded in 2024-25.
Raise awareness of climate change, providing regular updates and information.	To continue to provide local borough information to residents, identifying likely topics of interest.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Climate change and environmental initiatives are a strategic priority for the Communications team. Sustained campaigns on topics such as the HUG2 home insulation, food waste and green business grants have been supplemented with publicity around individual projects and achievements such as leisure centre decarbonisation and Solar Together. Information on these and other projects has been shared with residents and businesses through a variety of channels, including the TMBC website, social media, the TMBC app and news releases to the media. Internally, there has been extensive promotion to staff of carbon reduction plans, carbon literacy training and the benefits of electric vehicles.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations.	Complete installation of LED lighting throughout Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool	December 23	Ongoing	Tonbridge Swimming Pool installation is complete. External funding has been obtained for installing LED lighting in the pool areas at Larkfield Leisure Centre, with the Council funding the remaining installation in 2024-25.
	Complete installation of rooftop solar panels at Tonbridge Swimming Pool	December 23	Complete	149 solar PV panels have been installed at Tonbridge Swimming Pool, with an estimated annual generation of 65.6MWh.
	Complete assessment and design of heat pump potential at Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool to implementation-ready stage.	Oct 23	Complete	The assessment and design of heat pump potential for both leisure facilities was completed on time by October 2023. The design work for Larkfield Leisure Centre will be taken forward to the installation phase in 2024-26. The assessment of a heat pump for Tonbridge Swimming Pool showed this solution was not viable. Further development of options will continue in 2024.
	Assess potential for further on-site solar generation on other flat roofs at Larkfield Leisure Centre	Jun 24	Ongoing	The Council has been successful in obtaining grant funding for the installation of additional solar PV at Larkfield Leisure Centre. The project will involve the re-felting of the roof areas first and then installation of PV, to be completed by March 2025.
Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients.	New Digital Strategy 2023 - 2027 continues to contribute towards improving service efficiency, with emphasis on cognitive processes and automation	April 24	Complete	The Council's New Digital Strategy has been published and adopted.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
	Complete development TMBC device policy to increase efficiency of devices used.	Jun 24	Complete	The Device policy has been used to assess and assist in the procurement of future devices to enable a rollout of more efficient devices.
	Business process re-engineering, mobile solutions and digitisation to improve efficiency and reduce carbon footprint continues across services.	Ongoing	Ongoing	These processes will continue across services to continually improve efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint.

TMBC.GOV.UK
Serving our community

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4LZ

Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

YEAR FIVE - DRAFT

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
<p>Policy & Engagement</p> <p>Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council.</p>	<p>Deliver climate change training to staff and Members, offering courses on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Carbon Literacy training course delivered three times per year</p>
	<p>Develop options for reducing car travel and emissions from TMBC staff commuting and business travel</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<p>Autumn 2024 – feasibility and options report Winter 2024- March 2025 – implement approved recommendations.</p>
<p>Monitor and report Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council’s carbon emissions</p>	<p>Ensure all Climate Change Action Plans, Progress Reports and Carbon Audits are easily accessible and published on the climate change webpage</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>Annual Climate Change Action Plans, Progress Reports and Carbon Audits produced annually after end of year. Approved documents made available on climate change webpage as soon as possible (July).</p>
<p>Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate</p>	<p>Engage with KCC and other councils through Climate Change Network (CCN) meetings sharing case studies, best practice, and seeking areas of support and collaboration</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
	<p>Continue to engage with the delivery of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) through TMBC’s actions and partnership working.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Contribute to six monthly and annual ELES reports. Support contributions leadership and oversight of progress.</p>

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
Sustainable Development	Continue to pursue planning policies in the Council's emerging Local Plan that will facilitate the delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation, design measures and sustainable development patterns, progressing to Regulation 18b and public consultation, drawing on updated evidence, including on green infrastructure and climate change.	Ongoing	The Local Plan and next stage which the Regulation 18b Plan and public consultation is being developed in line with the published timetable.
	Through the grant of planning permission, the Council will seek to deliver sustainable development outcomes in line with the adopted development plan, national policy and material planning considerations.	Ongoing	The Local Plan and next stage which the Regulation 18b Plan and public consultation is being developed in line with the published timetable.
Support the improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough	Complete preparation of the new active travel strategy which will include cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations.	Spring 2024	The Local Plan and next stage which the Regulation 18b Plan and public consultation is being developed in line with the published timetable.
ULEV Provide electric charging points across the borough.	Deliver Phase 2 provision of an additional 60 chargers in the Council's car parks over the 2 year contract	May 25	Delivery of charges provisional programmed to start in summer 2024
Decarbonise TMBC owned vehicles	Undertake a vehicle replacement schedule (transitioning to ULEV) for all parking vehicles, in line where possible with the capital renewals programme and expected lifespan.	Ongoing	Additional funds secured and two vehicles proposed for replacement under Capital Renewals in 2024/25
Improve the environmental standards of licensed taxis operating in the borough.	Provide wider information regarding taxi EV charging provision as those installations progress.	Ongoing	

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
	Continue engagement with KCC through the CCN regarding future taxi licencing. Share with trade and participate in schemes as appropriate, for example 'try before you buy'	Ongoing	
	Progress strategy for future of licenced taxi fleet through Licensing & Appeals committee report on air quality, changes in the licenced taxi vehicle fleet, and proposals for vehicle requirements to 2030.	Ongoing	
Air Quality	Continue the full implementation of a borough wide Anti-idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines.	Ongoing	
	Pilot a Car Club within the Council for individuals use in local communities.	March 2025	Feasibility Winter 2024/25 Present options to Members March 25
Habitats & Biodiversity Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Develop a woodland management plan for Taddington Valley in liaison with the Forestry Commission	Autumn 24	Currently with Forestry Commission for approval. Adopt plan - Summer 2024 Seek quotes for coppicing - Summer 2024 Start coppicing - Autumn/Winter 2024/2025
	Continue with the lakeside revetment works in liaison with volunteers at Haysden Country Park, including a variety of aquatic plants.	March 25	Initial works scheduled for summer 2024
	Investigate a Roadside Nature Reserve programme with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to monitor and record species and	March 25	Seek quotation – Spring 2024 Implement surveying- Spring 2025 Annual report to be received Autumn 2025

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
Habitats & Biodiversity Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	identify maintenance alterations to enhance biodiversity.		
	Consider implementation of No Mow May within appropriate Amenity POS following commencement of new GM Contract in January 2025	March 25	Summer 24 – Identify potential sites Winter 2024/25 – explore implementation
	Continue to plant a mixture of 1000 trees and whips a year in appropriate areas of Council Owned Land. Following planting, monitor planted trees to ensure best chance of establishment, and plant more trees are removed to ensure an annual net gain overall.	Ongoing	Autumn /Winter – implement annual tree planting programme
Housing & Energy Conservation Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes.	Collaborate with Kent County Council and iChoors to make solar PV and batteries more accessible and affordable for our residents by delivering a group buying scheme.	June 2025	Marketing campaign May auction completed 31 May 2024. Installations to complete by January 2025.
	Deliver a marketing campaign with Kent County Council to target eligible households to participate Solar Together Kent.		Marketing campaign Autumn auction commence 19 August including: Direct mail 1 –19 August Direct mail 2 - 18 October 2024 Installations to complete by June 2025.
	To encourage the upgrade of low energy efficient social housing in our area to improve properties and reduce carbon emissions by installing whole house retrofit measures and reduce carbon emissions. Liaise with our housing association partners for example, Clarion Housing Group and Golding Homes, to influence delivery of energy	March 26	SHDF Wave 1.2 scheme ends March 26: the inclusion of c 250 Clarion homes in TMBC area and circa 77 Golding Homes properties in the Aylesford area under SHDF wave 1.2.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
	efficiency funding in our area, through for example Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding (SHDF) Wave 1.2 and SHDF Wave 3.		
	To encourage the upgrade of low energy efficient private tenure homes in our area to improve properties and reduce carbon emissions by installing whole house retrofit measures. Deliver retrofit energy efficiency measures through Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) targeting funding to c 48 low-income households living in low efficient 'off gas' homes (i.e., not using gas as main heating).	March 25	48 homes whole house retrofit completed by March 2025. Monthly reporting to Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
Waste Minimization & Recycling Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle.	Complete roll out of food waste for flats in key urban hotspots.	March 2025	Phase 1 – completed January 2024 Phase 2 – completed March 2024 Phase 3 – to be completed July 2024 Further phases - tbc
	Continue with Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) re-use campaigns, including promotion of food waste & garden waste collections; and ongoing promotions aimed at reducing contamination & increasing recycling performance.	March 25	Awaiting update on future of KRP. Garden Waste promotions – May & June 2024
	Continue working with KRP and national partners such as WRAP and Recoup (plastic specific).	Ongoing	As per above.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
<p>Community & Business Engagement</p> <p>Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy</p> <p>Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.</p>	<p>Delivery of Round 4 of the Green Business Grant Scheme to support local businesses/organisations with capital investments, including PV panels, heat source pumps, LED lighting and insulation.</p>	<p>March 25</p>	<p>April 2024 – grants awarded to successful applicants (there were 11 in total) September 2024 – consideration of a Round 5 January 2025 – all projects completed March 2025 – all grant payments made to completed projects.</p>
	<p>Delivery of Round 4 of the Shopfront and Vacant Unit Improvement Grant Scheme, including grant support for energy efficiency measures.</p>	<p>March 25</p>	<p>September 2024 – consideration of a Round 5. January 2025 – all projects completed March 2025 – all grant payments made to completed projects.</p>
	<p>Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin, with at least 2 articles per annum</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>June 2024 – specific article on the new action plan. Ongoing – articles regarding individual CC projects.</p>
	<p>Work with KCC and local business to share and signpost information, support and grants for business carbon reduction</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Work in partnership with Mid Kent College to support the delivery of Green Retrofit Training in order to upskill our local construction workers/businesses.</p>	<p>March 25</p>	<p>Pilot Courses – up to May 2025 Subsidised courses – up to March 2025</p>
<p>Support communities, voluntary groups and Parishes in taking climate action</p>	<p>Build collaborative working and public engagement with the Climate Change Forum, identifying areas for joint Council and community climate and environment action.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Community engagement at suitable events, including Aylesford Farmer’s Market Spring 2024. Quarterly Climate Change Forum meetings.</p>

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training Grants to support community and voluntary groups, SMEs, and Parish and Town Councils to understand climate change, carbon footprints and how to take new, significant actions to reduce emissions.	March 25	First round of grant applications completed. Grant open for second application round July - August 2024. All training and grants monies to be distributed by March 2025.
	Deliver Round 2 of Community Development Grants, part funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to support organisations based in the borough and/or providing a direct service to residents in line with community priorities.	March 25	The application window for Round 2 opened in Spring and closed in May 2024. All applications assessed and approved July 2024. All projects completed and grant monies distributed by March 2025.
Raise awareness of climate change, providing regular updates and information.	To continue to provide local borough information to residents, identifying likely topics of interest.	Ongoing	Continued focus on climate change and related projects for internal and external publicity. Key areas to include the climate change action plan, further steps towards leisure decarbonisation, including the new Angel Centre, and relevant aspects of the Local Plan. Timings are subject to milestones and delivery of projects outlined above.
TMBC Estate	Deliver energy efficiency, solar generation and improved building management at Larkfield Leisure Centre through the Swimming Pool Support Fund grant from Sports England.	March 25	Procurement of flat roof re-felting Re-felt works completed Procurement of solar PV Installation of solar PV Installation of sub-metering throughout site.
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations.	Complete installation of heat pump to replace end-of-life gas boilers at Larkfield Leisure Centre through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund grant from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by Salix.	February 26	Completion of technical design Procurement of works Completion of works

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones
	Develop heat decarbonisation plans, taking a 'fabric first approach', for other high energy use buildings in TMBC's estate, subject to external grant application	March 25	Being notified of whether external grant funding application has been successful If grant awarded, completion of decarb plans allow submission of PSDS round 4 application
	Decarbonise Gibson East as part of the Council's rationalisation of Kings Hill office space	Autumn 25	Completion of design work Planning permission granted Procurement of works Completion of works
Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients.	New efficient devices to be rolled out to staff in line with the renewals of equipment.	March 2025	The rollout of new efficient devices is taking place in the following tranches: Q2 – 45 devices Q3 – 45 devices Q4 – 45 devices
	Business process re-engineering, mobile solutions and digitisation to improve efficiency and reduce carbon footprint continues across services.	Ongoing	



Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Carbon Audit:

2023/ 2024

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1. Summary

Annually, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) produce a carbon audit. This audit details the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (CO₂e) from TMBC's owned estate and operations for the previous fiscal year. This allows for consistent monitoring of emissions over time, highlighting how TMBC is progressing towards meeting its 2030 carbon neutral aspiration.

Carbon audits are developed by TMBC in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol 'Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard' and the 'Environmental Reporting Guidelines' developed by the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). All emissions were calculated using official greenhouse gas conversion factors published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Defra¹.

In 2023/ 2024 TMBC emitted **3,249.1** tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent² (tCO₂e).

2. Scope emissions

The following section provides an overview of TMBC's emissions scopes:

Scope 1: Gas consumption, TMBC vehicle fleet.

Scope 2: Electricity consumption.

Scope 3: Transmission and distribution losses, water supply, water treatment, TMBC business travel, TMBC commuting, contractor travel (refuse), leisure facilities, grounds maintenance.

Renewable generation: Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) electricity tariff.

3. Emissions overview

<i>TMBC Emissions (tCO₂e)</i>					
Emissions Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Scope 1	139.0	148.7	143.6	127.8	111.6
Scope 2	198.0	145.6	131.0	99.9	78.1
Scope 3	3,266.7	2,592.3	3,049.0	3,170.6	3,137.5
Total Gross Emissions	3,603.7	2,886.6	3,323.6	3,398.3	3,327.2
Renewable Generation	0.0	0.0	133.5	100.9	78.1
Total Net Emissions	3,603.7	2,886.6	3,190.1	3,297.4	3,249.1

¹ [Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/conversion-factors-for-company-reporting-of-greenhouse-gas-emissions)

² Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e) = Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitrous Oxide represented as one equivalent unit, to measure the climate change impact of multiple gasses under one metric.

4. Emissions breakdown

<i>Emissions Sources</i>	<i>Consumption</i>		<i>Emissions Data</i>
Scope 1	Activity	Unit	t CO₂e
Gas Consumption	563,036	<i>kWh</i>	103.0
LPG Consumption		<i>tonnes</i>	
Oil Consumption		<i>litres</i>	
Council Vehicle Fleet			
Diesel Vehicle	2,010	<i>litres</i>	5.1
Petrol Vehicle	1,688	<i>litres</i>	3.5
Gas Oil		<i>litres</i>	
Total Scope 1			111.6

Scope 2	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e
Electricity Consumption	377,028	<i>kWh</i>	78.1
Total Scope 2			78.1

Scope 3	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e
Transmission & Distribution Losses	377,028	<i>kWh</i>	6.8
Water Supply	5,941	<i>m³</i>	1.0
Water Treatment	5,644	<i>m³</i>	1.1
Business Travel			
Small car	20,713	<i>miles</i>	4.7
Medium car	58,984	<i>miles</i>	16.4
Large car	1,206	<i>miles</i>	0.4
Electric car	2,207	<i>miles</i>	0.2
Rail		<i>passenger km</i>	
Commuting			
Diesel Car	92,673	<i>miles</i>	26.7
Petrol Car	302,437	<i>miles</i>	79.2
Hybrid Car	36,942	<i>miles</i>	7.2
Electric Car	20,586	<i>miles</i>	1.8
Motorbike	3,948	<i>miles</i>	0.7
Bus	1,588	<i>passenger km</i>	0.2
Contractor Travel			
Refuse Collection Vehicle fuel	427,975	<i>litres</i>	1,075.0
Leisure Centres			
Electricity	3,050,707	<i>kWh</i>	631.7
Gas	6,378,855	<i>kWh</i>	1,166.9
Kerosene	14,732	<i>litres</i>	46.8
Diesel	7,657	<i>litres</i>	19.2
Water Supply	57,417	<i>m³</i>	10.1
Water Treatment	54,546	<i>m³</i>	11.0
Grey Fleet		<i>miles</i>	
Waste DMR	No data	<i>tonnes</i>	
Waste Municipal	No data	<i>tonnes</i>	

Grounds Maintenance			
Electricity	No data	<i>kWh</i>	
Diesel	10,571	<i>litres</i>	26.6
Petrol	1,167	<i>litres</i>	2.4
Gas Oil		<i>litres</i>	
Water Supply	No data	<i>m³</i>	
Water Treatment	No data	<i>m³</i>	
Waste Composting / Anaerobic Digestion	127	<i>tonnes</i>	1.13
Municipal Waste / Combustion	11	<i>tonnes</i>	0.23
Total Scope 3			3,137.5

TMBC Gross Emissions Total			3,327.2
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Renewable generation	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e
REGO Tariff	377,028	<i>kWh</i>	78.1
Total			

TMBC Net Emissions Total			3,249.1
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5. Company Information

The Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is a local authority located in Kent, within the Southeast of England.

6. Reporting period

This reporting period is from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024.

7. Emissions overview

7.1. Scope 1

Scope 1 emissions totalled 111.6 tCO₂e in 2023/24, a fall of 20% from the 2019/2020 baseline. Scope 1 was the second largest emitting scope but contributed only 3.4% to TMBCs total gross emissions for 2023/24. In other words, emissions from heat and transport (TMBC's own vehicles) were greater than emissions from electricity use.

Gas consumption accounts for the majority of scope 1 emissions, with emissions from this source 16% lower in 2022/23 compared to the baseline year. TMBC vehicles produced 8.6 tCO₂e in 2023/24, a fall of 47% compared to baseline but only 8% year-on-year as there was no change in vehicle mix in 2023/24. Emissions for electricity use, including for TMBC owned vehicles that are charged at the TMBC offices, are reported in Scope 2.

7.2. Scope 2

Scope 2 emissions totalled at 78.1 tCO₂e in 2023/24, a fall of 61% from the 2019/2020 baseline year. See section 7.5 for a discussion of significant emissions changes.

Scope 2 contributed only 2.3% of TMBCs total gross emissions, making it the smallest contributor across the three scopes. However, these emissions only come from one source: electricity.

During 2023/24 the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers made use of the Council's one electric vehicle (EV), as noted under Scope 1 (TMBC vehicles). Emissions from charging this vehicle at TMBC sites are included in the total for Scope 2. However, as TMBC is on a renewable generation electricity tariff, these emissions are accounted as zero for net emissions.

7.3. Scope 3

Scope 3 emissions totalled 3,137.5 tCO₂e in 2023/24, which is 4% below the 2019/2020 baseline. Scope 3 was the largest contributor to TMBC emissions, accounting for 94.3% of gross emissions in 2023/24.

Leisure facilities remain the most significant contributor to Scope 3 emissions, emitting 1,885.7 tCO₂e, or 60% of Scope 3 emissions. Refuse collection vehicles were the second largest source of Scope 3 emissions at 1,075.0 tCO₂e, or 34% of Scope 3 emissions.

Other sources in Scope 3 accounted for much smaller proportions. Staff commuting by car or van was the third largest Scope 3 source of emissions, producing 113.1 tCO₂e, or 4% of scope 3 emissions.

All other sources accounted for less than 1% of scope 3 emissions, including Grounds maintenance which produced 30.4 tCO₂e, followed by business travel, which produced 21.7 tCO₂e. Transmission

and distribution losses, water supply and water treatment emitted, and commuting by non-car modes together totalled 9.7 tCO₂e.

7.4. Renewable generation

TMBC continued its renewable electricity tariff. Therefore, emissions associated from electricity consumption (scope 2) are 0 tCO₂e for reporting purposes.

However, for clarity, and to highlight the emissions impact of energy consumption, we report on gross emissions (without the renewable tariff) and net emissions, which considers the tariff. This approach is highlighted in the emissions breakdown section on page 4.

TMBC's net emissions are reported as the final net emissions figure for the corresponding fiscal year. Therefore, for 2023/24, TMBC's emissions are reported as **3,249.1** tCO₂e.

7.5. Significant emissions and consumption changes

Relative to the baseline there have been significant reductions in energy consumption and emissions in scopes 1 and 2. Gross emissions from scopes 1 and 2 were 44% below baseline in 2023/24, while net emissions from these scopes were 67% lower than the baseline.

In terms of consumption, electricity use fell by 51% relative to the baseline, highlighting that emissions reductions are due to energy efficiency measures over and above reductions in the carbon intensity of electricity from the National Grid. While an increase in working from home, relative to the pre-pandemic baseline, will contribute towards lower energy use at TMBC sites, some of this will be offset by energy use in homes. Emissions from home-working in 2023/24 have not been calculated.

In scope 3 there have been significant reductions in emissions from commuting by car and business travel, of 67% and 46% respectively, relative to the baseline. However, for business travel, these gains from have already been 'locked in' due to changing working patterns since the pandemic, with only a 2% reduction in emissions from business travel since 2022/23. Emissions from staff commuting, by contrast, continue to fall even though home-working rates are similar in 2022/23 and 2023/24. Staff commuting by car emissions fell 30% from 2022/23 to 2023/24 representing continuing changes in travel patterns, such as increased car pooling, and an increase in staff switching to electric vehicles.

Emissions from the largest emitting sources, leisure facilities and Refuse Collection Vehicles, remain high with little change from baseline, or year-on-year.

7.6. Largest emitting sources

1. Leisure facilities Gas Consumption (1,166.9 tCO₂e).
2. Refuse Collection Vehicles (1,075.0tCO₂e).
3. Leisure facilities Electricity Consumption (631.7tCO₂e).
4. Commuting by car (113.1tCO₂e).
5. TMBC Gas Consumption (103.0tCO₂e).

8. Measuring and reporting

Reporting on TMBC emissions will take place annually, following the greenhouse gas protocol and BEIS reporting guidelines.

This carbon audit will be reported to management team, and consequently taken through any relevant scrutiny process.

9. Scope Explanation

Scope	Activity	Description	Data Source
Scope 1	Gas Consumption	Used to heat our buildings.	Data obtained from council utility bills.
Scope 1	Oil Consumption	Used to heat our buildings.	Data obtained from council utility bills.
Scope 1	Vehicle Fleet	The council's vehicle fleet.	Data obtained from council fuel invoices.
Scope 2	Purchased electricity	Electricity purchased from the national grid to power the council's buildings.	Data obtained from council utility bills.
Scope 3	Transmission and Distribution Losses	Indirect emissions from the transmission and distribution of our purchased electricity.	Data obtained from council utility bills.
Scope 3	Water Supply	The supply of water to our buildings.	Data obtained from council utility bills.
Scope 3	Water Treatment	The water we return to the system (90% return to sewer rate).	Data obtained from council utility bills.
Scope 3	Business Travel	Staff and member travel in their own vehicles on business grounds.	Obtained using employee mileage claims.
Scope 3	Commuting	Staff travel to and from work premises.	Obtained using staff surveys.
Scope 3	Contractor Travel	Travel by contractors to conduct work commissioned by the council, e.g., waste collection.	Obtained through contractor fuel records.
Scope 3	Leisure Centres	Emissions from leisure centre use of electricity, gas, fuel, water, vehicles, and disposal of waste.	Data obtained from council bills, and mileage claims.
Scope 3	Grounds Maintenance	Emissions from Grounds Maintenance use of electricity, gas, fuel, water, vehicles, and disposal of waste.	Data obtained from council bills, and mileage claims.

10. Organisational boundary

Our organisation boundary is (as defined by BEIS) activities in which the organisation has financial and operational control. Therefore, the boundary covers everything that TMBC has the above control over. This follows guidance from the previous National Indicator 185:

"The indicator is to include all CO₂ emissions from the delivery of local authority functions. In terms of the meaning of the word in legislation "function" covers both the duties and powers of an authority. It covers all an authority's own operations and outsourced services" (DEFRA, 2008, p.3).

11. Geographical breakdown

All TMBC activities occur within the Tonbridge and Malling District, except for some staff and member business travel and commuting activities.

12. Base year

TMBCs base year is: 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020.

13. Base year recalculation policy

This base year will be recalculated following any significant structural or methodological changes. If lack of data prevents the base year from being recalculated, then the following year will be recalculated instead.

As of September 2022, the base year was recalculated to include commuting emissions data. A further quality assurance exercise in 2023 led to adjustments in commuting emissions and refuse collection vehicle data.

Base year emissions are 3,603.7 tCO₂e

14. Emissions target

TMBC has a 2030 net-zero emissions target.

15. Intensity measurement

No intensity measurement has been conducted.

16. External assurance statement

No external assurance has been conducted. However, the initial base year calculation was produced externally and then recalculated internally.

17. Carbon offsetting

No carbon offsetting has been conducted for 2023/ 24.

18. Renewable / green tariffs

TMBC has been on a renewable tariff (Renewable Electricity Guarantee of Origin) since 2021/22.

19. Background documents

- Greenhouse Gas Protocol: Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard.
- HM Government: Environmental Reporting Guidelines.

20. References

- Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)., 2021. *UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021>. Last accessed 08/09/2022.

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)., 2008. *Guidance to local authorities and Government Offices on National Indicator 185*. London, UK: DEFRA. pp. 3.

21. Annex 1: Detailed emissions statement

Please see pages 10 - 12 for our complete emissions statement. This details the following gasses, in addition to carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e): carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O).

TMBC Detailed Emissions Statement 2023 /24

<i>Emissions Sources</i>	<i>Consumption</i>		<i>Emissions (tonnes)</i>			
Scope 1	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e	t CO₂	t CH₄	t N₂O
Gas Consumption	563,036	<i>kWh</i>	103.0	102.8	0.2	0.1
LPG Consumption		<i>tonnes</i>				
Oil Consumption		<i>litres</i>				
Council Vehicle Fleet						
Diesel Vehicle	2,010	<i>litres</i>	5.1	5.0	0.0	0.1
Petrol Vehicle	1,688	<i>litres</i>	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0
Gas Oil		<i>litres</i>				
Total Scope 1			111.6	111.3	0.2	0.1

Scope 2	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e	t CO₂	t CH₄	t N₂O
Electricity Consumption	377,028	<i>kWh</i>	78.1	77.3	0.3	0.5
Total Scope 2			78.1	77.3	0.3	0.5

Scope 3	Activity Data	Unit	t CO₂e	t CO₂	t CH₄	t N₂O
Transmission & Distribution Losses	377,028	<i>kWh</i>	6.8	6.7	0.0	0.0
Water Supply	5,941	<i>m³</i>	1.0			
Water Treatment	5,644	<i>m³</i>	1.1			
Business Travel						
Small Car	20,713	<i>miles</i>	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
Medium Car	58,984	<i>miles</i>	16.4	16.3	0.0	0.1
Large Car	1,206	<i>miles</i>	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0
Electric car	2,207	<i>miles</i>	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Taxi		<i>passenger km</i>				

Scope 3	Activity Data	Unit	t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂	t CH ₄	t N ₂ O
Rail		<i>passenger km</i>				
Ferry		<i>passenger km</i>				
Plane		<i>passenger km</i>				
Commuting						
Diesel Car	92,673	<i>miles</i>	26.7	26.4	0.0	0.2
Petrol Car	302,437	<i>miles</i>	79.2	78.9	0.2	0.2
Hybrid Car	36,942	<i>miles</i>	7.2	7.1	0.0	0.1
Electric Car	20,586	<i>miles</i>	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Motorbike	3,948	<i>miles</i>	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Bus	1,588	<i>passenger km</i>	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contractor Travel						
Refuse Collection Vehicles	427,975	<i>litres</i>	1075.0	1060.8	0.1	14.1
Leisure Centres						
Electricity	3,050,707	<i>kWh</i>	631.7	625.3	2.7	3.7
Gas	6,378,855	<i>kWh</i>	1,166.9	1,164.5	1.8	0.6
Kerosene	14,732	<i>litres</i>	46.8	46.6	0.1	0.1
Diesel	7,657	<i>litres</i>	19.2	19.0	0.0	0.3
Water Supply	57,417	<i>m³</i>	10.1			
Water Treatment	54,546	<i>m³</i>	11.0			
Grey Fleet	No data	<i>miles</i>				
Waste DMR	No data	<i>tonnes</i>				
Waste Municipal	No data	<i>tonnes</i>				
Grounds Maintenance						-
Electricity	No data	<i>kWh</i>				
Diesel	10,571	<i>litres</i>	26.6	26.2	0.0	0.3
Petrol	1,167	<i>litres</i>	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Gas Oil	n/a	<i>litres</i>				
Water Supply	No data	<i>m³</i>				
Water Treatment	No data	<i>m³</i>				

Scope 3	Activity Data	Unit	t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂	t CH ₄	t N ₂ O
Waste Composting / Anaerobic Digestion	127	tonnes	1.13			
Municipal Waste / Combustion	11	tonnes	0.23			
Total Scope 3			3,137.5	3,088.1	5.0	19.7

TMBC Gross Emissions Total			3,327.2	3,276.7	5.5	20.3
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Renewable generation	Activity Data	Unit	t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂	t CH ₄	t N ₂ O
REGO tariff	377,028	kWh	78.07	77.28	0.34	0.46
Total						

			t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂	t CH ₄	t N ₂ O
TMBC Net Emissions Total			3,249.1	3,199.4	5.2	19.9

22. Version control

Document name	Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Carbon Audit 2023/ 24		
Document description	This carbon audit details emissions from TMBC for the 2023/ 24 fiscal year.		
Responsible officer	Gill Fox, Policy, Scrutiny & Communities Manager		
Version Number	Update reason	Author	Review date
1	First version	Carrie Spencer, Climate Change Officer	10 June 2024

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

17 July 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 HEALTH PRIORITIES

Summary

The Council's Health Action Team has agreed three health priorities to focus the work of the group on. These priorities will feed into a Kent & Medway shared delivery plan which underpins the Kent & Medway Integrated Care Strategy. Members are asked to endorse the priorities and note how we plan to move forward in tackling this important agenda.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Kent & Medway Integrated Care Strategy aims to bring together all system partners e.g. health, local authorities to make a significant difference, improving local services and supporting healthier living. The vision is "we will work together to make health and wellbeing better than any partner can do alone". The shared outcomes are as follows:

- Give children and young people the best start in life.
- Tackle the wider determinants to prevent ill health.
- Support happy and healthy living for all.
- Empower patients and carers.
- Improve health and care services.
- Support and grow our workforce.

1.1.2 There is a recognition within the strategy that local action, informed by local knowledge and led by local partners means that local systems are critical to improving health and wellbeing.

1.1.3 It is proposed that within the delivery plan for the strategy, district council priorities are cited which will support the overall shared outcomes.

1.2 Tonbridge & Malling Health Action Team

- 1.2.1 Tonbridge & Malling's Health Action Team (HAT) is a forum where the Council and local partners can come together to share knowledge and expertise and plan actions to help improve health for all across the borough. Membership includes TM Active, faith groups, West Kent Mind, local housing providers, Involve, Citizens Advice Bureau, grow 19, Communigrow and we are continually reviewing membership and welcome any organisation that can add value to our discussions.
- 1.2.2 After a period of inactivity for the HAT, recent excellent support from Kent County Council's Public Health team has led to a number of positive and engaging meetings where we have focussed on establishing three priorities. This has been done through discussion, workshops and a survey. The three priorities are as follows:
- Improving mental health
 - Supporting older people
 - Improving children's health
- 1.2.3 We have a further HAT meeting on 10 July where we will be looking at actions that can sit under each of these priorities that partners are already carrying out in order to start to develop a TMBC Health Action Plan. The plan is not intended to be burdensome either on the Council or our partners, rather to be a collection of the activities/support etc that is already happening across the borough within existing resources.
- 1.2.4 We will work with Kent County Council's Public Health team on information and statistics to underpin our action plan however it has to be recognised that monitoring any impact against the priorities we have will be extremely challenging given the many influencing factors involved. We will also identify any gaps in services in order to work within the Integrated Care system to see if these can be addressed.
- 1.2.5 The work of the HAT is supported internally by the One You team and in particular the One You Team Leader. We are commissioned by Kent County Council to deliver a "health in all policies" approach and this forms part of this work. We have recently had an internal Officer health meeting with representation from all Directorates and this was extremely useful in recognising what is already happening at Tonbridge & Malling BC to contribute towards the three priorities identified above.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 None arising from this report.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 There are no additional budget requirements from this report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Kent County Council commission the One You work that we carry out within Tonbridge & Malling including the wider health in all policies work. We operate this team within the grant allocation received. If this funding was to cease then we do not currently have the capacity within the Council to continue the health in all policies work and our continued role within the Integrated Care Strategy would be at risk.

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 That Members **ENDORSE** the three Health Action Team priorities as below.

- Improving mental health
- Supporting older people
- Improving children's health

1.6.2 That Members **NOTE** the positive work of the Health Action Team and the links being made with the Kent & Medway Integrated Care Strategy.

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: Linda Hibbs/Claire
Potter

Eleanor Hoyle
Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

17 July 2024

Report of the Director of Street Scene Leisure and Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet – Non Key Decision

1 TONBRIDGE RACECOURSE SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

SUMMARY

This report brings forward comments received as part of the public consultation exercise on the draft Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan. The Committee is invited to consider the responses and make recommendations on any proposed amendments to the Plan to Cabinet.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 In advance of public consultation, the draft Management Plan for Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground was considered by the Communities and Environmental Scrutiny Select Committee on 7 February 2024 and subsequently by Cabinet (Decision Notice **D240017MEM**).

1.2 Consultation Process

- 1.2.1 The draft Management Plan was circulated/made available for comment between 4 April and 10 May 2024. An email was circulated to key stakeholders, as listed at **[Annex 1]**, advising that copies of the Plan were available on the Council's website and hard copies were available to view at Tonbridge Castle and at the Council Offices, Kings Hill.
- 1.2.2 In addition, posters were displayed around the site advising visitors where the Plan could be viewed and how feedback could be provided during the consultation process. Posts were also made on social media to promote the consultation.

1.3 Consultation Response

- 1.3.1 Social Media posts were made reaching 17,380 people with 500 people following the link to the consultation webpage. The website page had 2159 visits. In response to the consultation 45 people and 2 stakeholders provided feedback, with 117 individual comments returned. Most people responding (30) were nearby residents.

- 1.3.2 From those responding, there was an average rating of 3.09 out of 5 for ease of understanding the document. The document is a complex operational plan for the site, which is designed to meet the requirements of and most comments received were supportive of the Plan. All comments received have been carefully considered and, where appropriate, amendments to the Plan have been proposed. A summary of the comments received, Officer responses and any proposed amendments can be found at **[Annex 2]** for Members consideration.
- 1.3.3 Members will note that the comments received cover a whole variety of topics including active travel, improvements to the children's play area, biodiversity, footpath widening, reuse of the bowling green area, tennis court improvements and flooding.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan has been prepared using the guidance produced by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Space – A guide to producing Park and Green Space Management Plans.
- 1.4.2 There are a number of legal provisions and statutory obligations that affect delivery of services in open spaces and this need to be duly reflected in the management plan.
- 1.4.3 These statutory provisions enable local authorities to hold land, provide services, enforce orders and in some cases impose fines.
- 1.4.4 Consultation is vital to the process of producing a robust management plan and the council has engaged with stakeholders as appropriate. The council has amended the draft management plan to reflect any proposed changes that have been agreed following consultation.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Once approved, general works will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and be delivered using existing revenue/capital funding where possible.
- 1.5.2 It should be noted that the delivery of many projects will be subject to sourcing additional or external funding such as developer contributions.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The Council's Health and Safety Officer has been consulted on the draft Plan.

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.7.1 An approach has been taken to the public consultation to reach a broad audience with 12 local disability organisations on the key stakeholders list.

- 1.7.2 The decisions recommended through this paper have remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact to end users.
- 1.7.3 The proposals aim to extend and provide additional/improved facilities with free public access for all. An access audit has been undertaken for the site which forms part of the Plan.

1.8 Policy Considerations

- 1.8.1 Biodiversity & Sustainability, Climate Change, Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction, Equalities/Diversity, Health and Safety, Healthy Lifestyles, Young People

1.9 Recommendations

- 1.9.1 Subject to comments by the Committee it be recommended to Cabinet that the proposed amendments to the draft Management Plan as shown in **[Annex 2] be made**, and that the Management Plan for Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground 2024-28 **[Annex 3] be approved**.

Background papers:

Market survey of Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground
Record of Decision Notice **D240017MEM**

contact: Chris Fox
Leisure Services Officer

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List of key stakeholders

Name of Stakeholder
Charities and disabled organisations
Emergency services
Environment Agency
Friends of the Earth
Walks for wellbeing - One you
Kent County Council – West Kent Area Office (Public Rights of Way)
Kent Wildlife Trust
Landscape Services
Local schools
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership
Mini Soccer Alliance
Network Rail
Parkrun
South East Water
SHS
Tonbridge and District Angling and Fish Preservation Society
Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust (TMActive)
Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells Dementia Friendly Community
Tonbridge Baseball Club
Tonbridge Canoe Club
Tonbridge Civic Society
Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Football Club
Tonbridge Lions
Tonbridge Model Engineering Society
Tonbridge Sports Association (representing the sports clubs)
Tonbridge Town Lands and Richard Mylls Charity

Tonbridge Volleyball club

Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board

Urbaser Ltd

Footpaths and Active travel

Comment	Proposed Response
I would like to see a designated cycle path to connect North and South Tunbridge without cyclists having to go down the dangerous High Street.	Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
Dedicated cycling path so they keep away from pedestrians.	Comment noted. There is already a designated cycle route on-site and Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
The footpaths are not a cycle paths, except the well-marked cycle path in Deacons Field. Please add signage to tell cyclist not to cycle on the footpaths. Often cyclists seem to think that they have right of way on the footpaths, which is inconsiderate, and at times dangerous.	Comment noted, though no change proposed. As explained in the plan the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is unlikely to be realistic. See Projects 6 and 20. Consideration will also be given to installing signage to promote awareness of other users.
It would be great if Tonbridge Park could incorporate elements of Gravesend cyclopark with areas for children to cycle.	Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
Could there be a design for a separate bike track. Mixing pedestrians with cyclists is unsafe and stressful for walkers especially with children. With a proper cycle track it might also get cyclists off the roads too, which are also too dangerous. It could be a money earner if done correctly.	Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
A separate cycle track is needed.	Comment noted. There is already a designated cycle route on-site and Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
I think active travel is missing from the list	<p>In the accessibility section of the plan (on pages 5 and 6) and on our website we list all the alternative methods of travel to the site.</p> <p>Accordingly in the plan there are projects covering a variety of methods of travel including Projects on cycling, car parking, and wayfinding pedestrian routes.</p>
Review cycling provision within the site (page 54). There is plenty of space within the park for additional (not shared use) paths specifically for cycles. Thinking mainly of children that intensively use the park, I think I'm right in saying technically they cannot ride their bikes with parents to the playground. Also, a cycle link avoiding the traffic of the High Street could be possible - when I cycle with my	Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.

children from north to south Tonbridge there is no quiet or traffic free route.	
The community do not want the car parks extended. Please stop paving over things. Add more bike racks instead.	Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
Improve active travel.	Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed.
The footpath around the Racecourse ground is not wide enough. In these times of accessibility and inclusivity it should be wide enough for two wheelchairs or pushchairs to pass. As it stands, there is sometimes hardly room for two pedestrians to pass without one or other walking in the grass which may be very muddy after heavy rainfall such as we have just seen.	Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements.
The paths around and running through the sportsground need to be widened to at least 3m where that is possible to allow runners and cyclists to mix safely with pedestrians. We should consider new downlit illumination along the main pathway between the Swimming Pool and Avebury Avenue to provide safe access but minimise light pollution.	Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements.
Prioritise the widening of the pathways throughout to encourage healthier lifestyles encourage cyclists and accommodate Tonbridge Park Run.	Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements.
I note the plan to make wider footpaths which is welcomed.	Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements.
Paths need widening for disabled buggy.	Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements.
Important that paths are wider. Far too narrow especially in winter when ground is wet / flooded and people can't get past each other.	Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements.

Play Areas

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>I love the idea of improving the play area to include more sensory activities, maybe more "attractive" and natural looking play areas. Such as natural-looking boulders, tunnels to crawl through, more natural sandpits. Look to Priory Farm's Discovery Land, Hever Castle's playground and Hobbledown for inspiration when it comes to making play areas not jar with the environment around them.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The provision of sensory play equipment will be considered within projects 33-34. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Page 56/57- examples of new equipment. Adding something like a chess table is a great way to improve the variety of uses of the park. Sensory play equipment can be used by all visitors to the park, using the current park on a regular basis I see people interacting with the gym equipment and the interactive bird noise machines. Expanding on this with more sensory play equipment would be a benefit for everyone.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The provision of sensory play equipment will be considered within projects 33-34. No change proposed.</p>
<p>There absolutely should be water fountain in the children's play area, in the summer it gets really hot there.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>I am happy with most of the plan. I would like to suggest that a water bottle refill station/drinking fountain be installed somewhere fairly close to the children's play area. If it is easier to install just outside the public toilets that would also be fine.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Generally speaking the sportsground is well used and popular, with an excellent children's play area. it is admired by visitors and residents alike and with a little improvement could provide an even better space for everyone to enjoy.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The plan identifies several projects that would improve the sportsground. No change proposed.</p>
<p>A covered bench close to the skate park area would held youth and parents with using this amenity.</p>	<p>Comment noted. A shelter already exists on-site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>The skate park is very basic and would benefit from an extension to be designed in partnership with the young people who use it.</p>	<p>Comment noted. See Project 34, which considers improvements to the play area, skate park and ballcourt.</p>
<p>Working with young people to design an improved skatepark and providing better places for visitors to meet than the very basic shelter.</p>	<p>Amend plan to include reference to the fact that the Council worked with young people on original layout, add design proposals to be considered by the public.</p>
<p>Reintroduce a drinking fountain/water filling station without further delay.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Project Number 71 (Water bottle filling station) - We would support this initiative and the sustainable and efficient use of water. We would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to see if this could align with any initiatives and water efficiency programmes that we are delivering.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p>

Water bottle filling station (page 55). Yes. It seems crazy not to have a water fountain	Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.
We need a water fountain to refill water bottles in a more environmentally friendly way.	Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.
More sun protection in the playground especially over the sand pit. It's so exposed.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to the planting of more trees and hedges to create shade. No change proposed.

Public Safety

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>As a woman I do not feel that it is safe to walk through the park at night. It's completely dark and impossible to see anything. There should be more lighting, at least on the main path between the castle/swimming pool and the exit towards the High Street and Barden area.</p>	<p>Comment noted, amend plan to include a project to investigate additional lighting.</p>
<p>Policing of younger people smoking drugs can always smell it walking round yet no one does anything!</p>	<p>Comment noted. The support of the police is acknowledged in the plan, and the Council will continue to work in partnership with them to reduce anti-social behaviour in the park.</p>
<p>More streetlights</p>	<p>Comment noted, amend plan to include a project to investigate additional lighting.</p>
<p>To make it the best and safest Park, in the whole of Kent/SE. Just like the town</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

Habitats & Biodiversity

Comment	Proposed Response
I think that it would be to have more trees, longer and more natural	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed.
Plant mature trees around the edge and between the pitches. We desperately need more shade in the park. Plant mature trees around the edge and between the pitches.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed.
I love the idea of increasing biodiversity and planting more trees.	Comment noted.
More hedge rows to encourage biodiversity and reduce wind would be welcome.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. No change proposed.
The footpath would also benefit from the planting of more trees, perhaps in groups to provide shade in summer and to soak up some of the water in periods of heavy rain.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. No change proposed.
It is past time to please stop using pesticides, they kill wildlife indiscriminately.	Comment noted. By law and because of the water extraction on the site the council uses the minimal amount of pesticides necessary to achieve the objectives of providing surfaces for field sports. Project 47 reviews the use of existing chemicals and investigates alternative methods of weed control. Therefore no change proposed.
Interplanting clover with grass would keep the grassy areas greener and more usable during the summer.	Comment noted, though no change proposed – Whilst good for biodiversity unfortunately, clover would not provide a hard-wearing robust winter field sports surface.
More trees is an excellent idea.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. No change proposed.
More bug hotels would be welcome, as well as log piles and underplanting trees with bulbs. Local children could be involved in these projects.	Comment noted. There is already a bug hotel at the site and more can be created.
I increase variety of tree planting and shrub planting to increase biodiversity.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due

	to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed.
Increased planting of trees and hedgerows to provide long term improvement in biodiversity and tree cover.	Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed.
More wildflowers around margins and inside miniature train track more trees all to promote wildlife.	Comment noted. Project 29 will consider alternative methods of habitat methods at the park. No change proposed.
Better nature planting	Comment noted, though no change proposed. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. No change proposed.
<p>There is huge scope for significant biodiversity improvement throughout the sportsground. There could be a line of trees running alongside the perimeter pathways and an avenue running through the middle with additional planting in the hedgeline and another parallel to that.</p> <p>There could be a rewilding strip 5m wide on each side of the line of trees stretching from Tonbridge Juniors FC Clubhouse to the bank opposite Barden Boatyard.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to plant a wildlife garden next to the Riverside Bowls Club and we should encourage a Friends of Tonbridge Racecourse group to help manage this. We need to place biodiversity at the centre of future management and we could have strips running around the sportsground left uncut for the summer to encourage increasing the number of species in the sward to attract far more butterflies</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. No change proposed.</p>
We have to do much more to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides in the Sportsground so that we do not have a space dominated with a sterile monoculture of grass with biodiversity confines to the edges. We could introduce more standard trees in the larger open spaces in a way that would not make maintenance any harder.	Comment noted. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. Therefore, no change proposed.
There is a huge opportunity to increase biodiversity throughout	Comment noted. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. Therefore, no change proposed.

<p>Management of biodiversity - Himalayan Balsam seedlings and small plants can be pulled up in April / May very effectively. The root plate is very small, and little or no soil comes up with the root, therefore not damaging the soil, and river bank, which is ideal. Leaving control of these plants until later in the summer enables them to get more established and difficult to remove. Please consider controlling Himalayan Balsam in April / May not June.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Council are reliant on volunteers to complete this task and aim to do this early in the year subject to resources.</p>
<p>Some of the trees need better management</p>	<p>Comment noted. Projects 15 and 16 commit to basic and expert tree inspections in accordance with the Councils Tree Safety Policy. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Whilst there is significant provision for wildlife, I wonder if there could be a more educational section or community space. A community orchard or food forest, a wildlife area for young kids to access easily in town with insect hotels, etc etc. Of course there is provision in many country parks, but that's not always accessible to all.</p>	<p>Comment noted. There is already a bug hotel at the site and more can be created. We encourage the community to use the site and nearby schools were invited to comment on the plan.</p>
<p>Regarding maximising the biodiversity potential (and also improving climate resilience), there are peripheral areas such as the area between the river and the tennis courts & skate park that could be meadow rather than amenity grassland. Similarly, other areas on the edge of the park could be improved for wildlife from this point of view. Longer vegetation helps prevent run-off and has a greater capacity to take in water than amenity grassland.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 29 considers appropriate biodiversity enhancements for the site. Therefore no change proposed.</p>
<p>Appendix 8 - it is positive that the use of chemicals is always under review, but I would question the use of chemicals on the playing fields and around the play areas given that children use these areas and are more sensitive to chemicals than others. Have any non-chemical alternatives been trialled or at the very least demonstrated?</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 47 reviews the use of existing chemicals and investigates alternative methods of weed control.</p>
<p>We support the aims and objectives of the management plan in respect to it being well managed, safe and secure, well maintained and clean, environmentally managed and addresses biodiversity, landscape and heritage. These are objectives that align with our own aspirations and will ensure that proposals contained within the plan do not adversely impact on our current operations for the abstraction wells.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Project Number 29 (Habitat Management) - As part of the development of the plan, we would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to investigate opportunities to create nature based solutions to protect groundwater quality, for example this could include wild grassland/wild meadowland in the immediate locality of our abstraction wells.</p>	<p>Amend the plan Make specific mention in Project 29 of the groundwater source protection zones (SPZs) around abstraction wells.</p>

<p>Project Number 47 (Pesticide and chemical usage) - Compliance with the groundwater source protection zones (SPZs) around our abstraction wells is critical for us to ensure the water quality of our abstractions is maintained. As part of the development of the plan, we would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to investigate alternative pest, weed control methods and the chemicals used in the management of the sportsground.</p>	<p>Amend plan Project 47 add engage with SE water</p>
<p>Habitat Management (page 49) could be bolstered, particularly alongside "Sustainability". These suggestions appear vague.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>More tree, scrub and hedge planting</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Project - 71 water bottle refills facilities at key points is a great idea. Maybe someone creative could design children and adult (maybe dogs) bottles with a Race course/ Tonbridge logo for purchase in the cafe:)</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Make the strip from the football club to the river wider and better protected, and have a corresponding one the other side, with a proper path next to it. Make all the paths wider. There are lots of joggers and dog walkers, in wet weather it's impossible to pass each other.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed – Projects 6 (Facility Improvements) and 20 (Paths) consider improvements to facilities – including paths. The site is located on a flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be unrealistic. Project 29 considers areas that would be appropriate for enhancement to increase biodiversity.</p>

Flooding

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>The site is within the watershed catchment area for the Board and of arterial importance and so is a 'maintained watercourse'. Reminded us of the Byelaws that apply, including the consent required for certain changes and activities. Maintenance is carried out by the board to meet water level management requirements but not necessary annually.</p>	<p>Proposed plan amendment Amend the document to give a brief summary of functions of the UMIDB</p>
<p>No just keep the drainage in mind, and better security</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Leave it as it is unspoilt also acts as part of the flood plain</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Leave well alone this open space regularly floods even more these days with the overdevelopment of areas along the river bank</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>There needs to be a specifically stated project to fix the problem with flooding of the Railway Entrance (no. 7) every time it rains heavily in winter. This is the only access point between the Sportsground and Barden Lake/Haysden Country Park, so is a very critical pathway, yet very often visitors are deterred from exploring further because of an inability to pass through the entrance without soaked and/or muddy footwear. If the inadequate drainage cannot be solved, maybe build a shallow bridge maybe only 6-12 inches high over the puddle?</p>	<p>Comment noted. Amend plan to include reference to the fact that this land is owned by Network Rail.</p>

<p>Page 21 indicates that the play areas can hold flood water for weeks, however it often holds water for months because of poor drainage, rendering the play areas unusable for much of the year.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed Flooding is recognised as an issue at the park given its status as a flood plain, although the duration of flooding can vary.</p>
<p>P61 the existing drainage at the play areas is not effective, meaning that the play areas are unusable, often for months. Access through the park from the play areas towards the swimming pool is also impacted. The council ought to look at methods of improving or replacing the drainage in this area to ensure flood water can be moved into the river after a flood event.</p>	<p>Amend plan - Consider bolstering section on flooding on Page 13 and explain that the EA control the river level and utilise the flood plain at their discretion. Explain that the Council have no control over this and that work has been carried out to improve the drainage following a flood event. The site has natural undulations which hold water and this would be difficult to remedy without reducing flood capacity and compensating elsewhere on-site.</p>
<p>The park is environmentally important as a flood plain but also provides recreational facilities for all ages</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>Improve drainage near putting green to toilet area we walk there often flooded</p>	<p>Amend plan - Consider bolstering section on flooding on Page 13 and explain that the EA control the river level and utilise the flood plain at their discretion. Explain that the Council have no control over this and that work has been carried out to improve the drainage following a flood event. The site has natural undulations which hold water and this would be difficult to remedy without reducing flood capacity and compensating elsewhere on-site.</p>
<p>The route under the railway bridge must be maintained for access during wet weather. Currently is impassable during wet spells</p>	<p>Comment noted. Amend plan to include reference to the fact that this land is owned by Network Rail.</p>
<p>The park needs a viable drainage management plan. The park is flood too many times to mention and left unusable.</p>	<p>Amend plan - Consider bolstering section on flooding on Page 13 and explain that the EA control the river level and utilise the flood plain at their discretion. Explain that the Council have no control over this and that work has been carried out to improve the drainage following a flood event. The site has natural undulations which hold water and this would be difficult to remedy without reducing flood capacity and compensating elsewhere on-site.</p>
<p>Improve the recovery of the site after flooding</p>	<p>Amend plan – as above.</p>

<p>The plan, needs to be sent to residents, but where you are at well you need to sort out the drainage as its bad. It needs a much better revamp</p>	<p>Amend plan – as above.</p>
<p>I would further like to see the ground level on the path under the railway bridge leading out to Haysden country park raised and/or drainage improved so that it isn't flooded so often.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Amend plan to include reference to the fact that this land is owned by Network Rail.</p>

Waste Management

Comment	Proposed Response
Project 21 - additional bins which are emptied more frequently at weekends, holidays and special occasions would be great.	Comment noted, though no change proposed. The frequency of bin emptying can be reviewed if needed.
I would like bins for separate recyclable and ordinary rubbish.	Comment noted, though no change proposed.
We should be recycling waste at the bins in the sportsground especially as this has been requested by Mochafella.	Amend plan Under waste minimisation add an ambition to reduce waste from the site as opposed to recycling. Consider additional signage in play area to promote reductions in waste at the site.
Environmental management - please install larger dog poo bins, as the ones provided are often filled up, especially in the summer. Please also consider installing waste bins which include recycling bins for plastic, glass and tins. Both of the above are used in Wandsworth Council public areas, and the public do use them.	Comment noted. Project 25 considers the usage, capacity and location of general waste and dog waste bins at the site. No change proposed.
Well maintained and clean. Is of utmost importance. It needs more and bigger bins. That are emptied regularly, especially in the warmer months	Comment noted, though no change proposed. The frequency of bin emptying can be reviewed if needed.

Use of Bowls Green

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>I see the bowling lawn is to be repurposed but no opportunities are proposed. Perhaps padel courts should be considered with suitable flooding mitigation measures. Padel courts have been suggested to TMBC before (a few years ago) and it is a shame this suggestion was not considered further as the private facility at Tonbridge Golf Centre is extremely popular so the demand is there and it would generate good income for the Council.</p>	<p>Comment noted. See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Table 12, no 64 - new uses for the bowling green area - please don't put an ugly building on here. Consider instead turning the hut into a tearoom with a garden and a maze - children love mazes.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. – See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council</p>
<p>The Riverside Bowls Club should be repurposed to become a Sustainability Centre to host the Tonbridge Mens' Shed, Tonbridge Repair Cafe, Tonbridge Maker Space and Tonbridge Library of Things. There could be a cafe on the Riverside Bowls Club site to provide somewhere for young people to socialise safely especially through the dark winter afternoons and evenings.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. – See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council</p>
<p>The use of the Riverside Bowls Club should focus on community cohesion and environmental sustainability. We have an opportunity to create a vibrant spaces for multiple uses and provide a safe space for young people to call their own and fill the void left by the closure of the Teen and Twenty Club for older teenagers especially. This should also be financially sustainable.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. – See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council</p>
<p>The bowls club area should be the subject of a working group of members, officers and community groups to explore the possibility of establishing a Sustainability Centre.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council. No change proposed.</p>

Volunteer Engagement

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>Setting up a Friends of Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground to help bring in volunteers to help maintain the largely empty bedding next to the bowls club and tennis courts to support wildlife friendly planting and improve amenity throughout the year through a well presented and flowering border.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 10 involves exploring volunteering opportunities at the site. Project 29 considers habitat management. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Encourage/plan more volunteers. Get together days/weeks so people can get involved making it part of the community</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 10 involves exploring volunteering opportunities at the site. No change proposed.</p>

Additional Comments

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>I think a main priority should be looking into a bigger cafe, or a second cafe with indoor seating in the park. It would be hugely popular and a big draw for the public. looking grasses and more attractive areas for the public to choose to sit.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. A project to consider a bigger café could be added to plan however this will be challenging due to the high water table, flooding and costs.</p>
<p>Project 6 - I've been to several south and north London parks where cafes have been a key focus of the environment bringing together friends and families. I'm sure that this would also generate funds at the same time. Maybe a building could be leased to an interested party. If the little coffee van is open when we walk round or through the park, we invariably stop to buy a seated area would be welcome although there are benches nearby.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 6 will consider improvements to facilities, therefore, no change proposed.</p>
<p>Road signage (page 52) this seems very slow in delivery. We need to connect the town (eg the station, High Street, River Walk) to the Racecourse. Many people comment that "they didn't know the Racecourse was there" when visiting the town, even though this is an amazing and special feature of Tonbridge.</p>	<p>The site is promoted on various websites. Appendix 13 the Interpretation and marketing plan includes projects to promote the site.</p> <p>There is already some road signage and pedestrian waymarking routes present around the town with maps in certain locations but we acknowledge that signage could be improved in Project 52</p> <p>Amend the plan Project 52 is proposed to be implement in 2027-28 amend to 2025-26.</p>
<p>Tennis courts:</p> <p>These are identified in the SWOT analysis as an opportunity area.</p> <p>As an active tennis player and committee member at Tonbridge Tennis Club I am pleased to see these poorly maintained courts, which flood most winters, are identified as an opportunity area. However, given the courts were noted as a number 1 priority area in the 2019-23 Management Plan, and no improvements have happened, I hope this is more than a token gesture.</p> <p>I have already suggested to Council officers that before there is significant capital investment in these courts there should be a discussion with Tonbridge Tennis Club to explore ideas and see both parties can work co-operatively to the benefit of both and the wider community i.e. better and more accessible facilities for all and at shared expense.</p> <p>Finally, I was recently asked to meet a Council appointed</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed – The SWOT and Project 28 already identifies opportunity for the tennis courts as priority 1 in Laison with the Leisure Trust.</p> <p>The Audit referred to will form part of the emerging Council's new Local Plan which is a Planning policy document, and so outside of the scope of this management plan at the current time.</p>

consultant (Tony Ploszajski of Plc Leisure Consulting) who I understand was instructed to undertake an audit of sports facilities in the Borough and I very much hope this draft Management Plan has taken into consideration the findings of Plc Leisure Consulting rather than be produced independent of their conclusions.	
<p>Tennis courts:</p> <p>1. Table 12 (point 28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements were a priority in the 2019-23 plan but nothing has happened - The courts flood almost every year so is it prudent to invest significantly in resurfacing (this will cost about £75,000) and a smart gate (this will cost about £5,000). - Tonbridge Tennis Club would be interested in discussing coming together and exploring ideas around a new joint facility with member and community access. There could be numerous benefits to both parties." 	Comment noted. Whilst a lot of projects were achieved in the last 5 years, we experienced a global pandemic during that period and funding was constrained. No change proposed.
I am actually blown away with the amount of time, consideration and effort that has been put into the plan. Like many well oiled wheels, the efficiency is just expected because it works without the public even thinking or knowing about all the work behind the scenes. I'm thinking particularly about general maintenance of the grounds including trees etc.	Comment noted.
Hard work for a layman to work through, this response needs to be simpler.	Comment noted. We have provided an executive summary of the plan. This is a detailed operational plan, which is necessary to achieve the Green Flag Award and run the site successfully. No change proposed.
There should be active management of the people using the slipway, they block the car park and especially the paths regularly.	Comment noted. There is a Licence in place which is monitored
A large, secure area for dogs to play/exercise - like you already have for children - would be just fantastic.	Comment noted, though no change proposed.
It is impossible to remember exactly which bit was where, there plan was so heavily written. Please consider making these plans more accessible.	Comment noted. We have provided an executive summary of the plan. This is a detailed operational plan, which is necessary to achieve the Green Flag Award and run the site successfully. No change proposed.
Part 3 Must be measurable	Comment noted. The objectives within the plan have been scheduled across the life of the plan. Progress is measured annually. No change proposed.
Improve toilets	Amend plan to include toilets in Project 6 Facility improvements
Its a great space, a valuable asset to the town and people's well being.	Comment noted.

<p>The overall aim seems good, but wanting more money out of clubs when the whole community is in an economic crisis. Please do not ask for much.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>No extensions to the car parks, actively encourage and provide alternatives!</p>	<p>Comment noted. The plan contains projects around active travel and cycling provision. No change proposed.</p>
<p>Improved toilets</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 6 considers facility improvements for the site. No change proposed.</p>
<p>There is very little for teenagers in town and of course in the summer months, they tend to hang out either in the park or (in some ways more dangerous) at the lock just outside. It would be nice to see that addressed by creating a more welcoming place for them to be teens without being in conflict with the playground for the younger kids and whilst being safe themselves (I have two teens myself). The plan seems to address all sorts of age groups that actually have more provision in town already.</p>	<p>Comment noted. A separate area for teenagers is already provided around the skatepark and ball court. Projects 34 and 70 will consider additional provision. Therefore, no change proposed.</p>
<p>An enclosed dog training area. There are too many dogs off lead that are not sufficiently trained and that approach either kids or other potentially reactive dogs (like ours) without recall. An area might address that as not everyone may be able to afford a dog field hire.</p>	<p>Comment noted, though no change proposed.</p>
<p>Looking back to my upbringing in Europe, such spaces are often more welcoming with more seating in larger groups as well, possibly some seating under cover as well as wind protected to enable people to utilise the park in more weather conditions (and makes it easier for parents that are waiting for their kids during matches/sport), it also creates a community space.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Projects 6 and 21 consider Facility improvements and seats. Therefore, no change proposed.</p>
<p>Continuously review to improve and implement what is needed</p>	<p>Comment noted. Progress is reviewed annually. Therefore, no change proposed.</p>
<p>Everyone should be working together to make it the best, along with the town. Keeping it all to a high, productive and positive standard. Plant more trees! Bird/bat boxes, hides and nature reserve sections.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>As South East Water, we maintain and operate the abstraction wells within the Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground. As part of the development of the Management Plan, we would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to ensure that proposals contained within it do not adversely impact on our current operations for the abstraction wells.</p>	<p>Comment noted. SE water are an identified stakeholder in Table 10 of the plan and would be consulted on relevant projects. No change proposed.</p>
<p>The car parks don't need expanding, encourage public transport, run a bus service direct to the swimming pool.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>I would welcome additional areas of shade in the racecourse park, to enable more of the park to be used to the height of summer when it is too hot to be in the sun. Thanks.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Project 22 commits to the planting of more trees and hedgerows. Therefore, no change proposed.</p>

<p>Facility Improvements (page 45) seems unambitious and lacks detail.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Any facility improvements identified within Project 6 (Facility Improvements) are dependent upon funding available over the period of the plan.</p> <p>More details for larger projects will be developed and considered by the members as projects progress via the capital plan evaluation process.</p>
<p>Tonbridge Canoe Club have requested an alternative description of their club on page 24 of the plan.</p>	<p>Amend the plan to read:</p> <p>Tonbridge Canoe Club – Formed in 1977, a small and vibrant Canoe Club, which promotes the various disciplines of canoeing from its base on the River Medway opposite Tonbridge Castle. The Club meets every Saturday morning throughout the year, and on various weekday evenings for race training and general Club sessions. The club assist with community river litter picks often getting to places inaccessible by land. During this plan period the club aims to develop the site and the clubhouse to provide improved sporting facilities and to facilitate enhanced use by other water sports organisations and local community groups. Their website can be found at http://www.tonbridgecanoeclub.org.uk/.</p>

Comments received that are not within the scope of the plan

Comment	Proposed Response
<p>I don't believe that extending the car park into the Castle fields will improve the town; and it will certainly destroy a lovely little playground for children. Why not put your car park on the playing fields? There's enough space there for car parking AND leisure activities.</p>	<p>Comment noted. This comment is outside of the scope of this consultation and outside the boundary. No change proposed.</p>
<p>I would like a confirmed cycle path with lighting between Slade and Barden. This is already used by cyclists frequently. If it could be different colored flooring to make a distinction between the area for cyclists and area for pedestrians and dogs that would be helpful. A line of white paint to make the distinction, as elsewhere, doesn't seem to work.</p>	<p>Comment noted. This comment is outside of the scope of this consultation and outside the boundary. No change proposed.</p>

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
Climate Change Monitoring and Reporting	Report seeking endorsement of progress made against actions in the 2023/24 Climate Change Action Plan; and seeking Member approval for the 2024/25 Climate Change Action Plan and Carbon Audit 2023/24.	CAB	NKD	Y	1	17 July 2024	yes
Health Priorities for Tonbridge and 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
Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan	Outcome of consultation	CAB	NKD	N			
Work Programme	Standing item	Info					
						19 September 2024	
Key Performance Indicators	Standing item	Info					
Work Programme	Standing item	Info					

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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
						6 November 2024	
Key Performance Indicators	Standing item	Info					
Work Programme	Standing item	Info					

Agenda Item 10

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 11

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 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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