

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL



EXECUTIVE SERVICES

Chief Executive
Damian Roberts

Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ
West Malling (01732) 844522

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

12 May 2026

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, 20th May, 2026 **commencing at 6.30 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

5 - 8

PART 1 - PUBLIC

2. Apologies for absence
3. Notification of Substitute Members 9 - 10
To be appointed at Annual Council
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 4 March 2026.

6. Presentation - Snodland Hub Verbal Report
A short presentation on the Snodland Hub will be provided by Snodland Town Council.

Matters for Recommendation to the Cabinet

7. Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27 19 - 24
This report presents the draft Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27 for Member comment and endorsement.

8. Climate Change Monitoring and Reporting 25 - 54
This report presents the annual progress against the Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26 and the proposed Climate Change Action Plan for 2026/27, and seeks approval for their publication.

Matters submitted for Information

9. Work Programme 2026 55 - 58
The Work Programme setting out matters to be scrutinised during 2026 is attached for information. Members can suggest future items by liaising with the Chair of the Committee.

10. Urgent Items 59 - 60

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 61 - 62

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

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet

12. South-West Kent Waste Services Contract - Options Report 63 - 72

(Reason: Part 2 - Private: LGA 1972 - Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

This report advises on the Options contained within the recently tendered new Waste Contract in relation to future frequency of cleansing of specific sections of High-Speed Roads (largely Dual Carriageways), cleansing of specific areas of Parks & Open Spaces and the future financing of new vehicles deployed on the contract.

13. Fly Tipping and Littering Enforcement Options Report 73 - 92

(Reason: Part 2 - Private: LGA 1972 - Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

This report presents an overview of recent enforcement activity relating to littering and fly tipping offences and sets out options for Members to consider for the provision of future activities.

14. Management of Haysden Country Park 93 - 98

(Reason: Part 2 - Private: LGA 1972 - Sch 12A Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information))

This report considers the management of Haysden Country Park.

15. Urgent Items 99 - 100

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

MEMBERSHIP

To be appointed at Annual Council

GUIDANCE ON HOW MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED

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

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

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

Attendance:

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

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

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

Ground Rules:

The meeting will operate under the following ground rules:

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

For those Members participating online:

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

Voting:

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

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

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To be appointed at Annual Council

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Declarations of interest

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TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, 4th March, 2026

Present: Cllr S A Hudson (Chair), Cllr K S Tunstall (Vice-Chair), Cllr A G Bennison, Cllr S Crisp, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr J R S Lark, Cllr A McDermott, Cllr S Pilgrim, Cllr M R Rhodes and Cllr Mrs M Tatton

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs T Dean and W E Palmer*.

(*apologies submitted for in-person attendance and participated via MS Teams)

CE 26/1 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members.

CE 26/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

CE 26/3 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee held on 5 November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET

CE 26/4 SOUTH WEST KENT WASTE SERVICES CONTRACT RETENDER

A comprehensive update was provided on the Borough Council's procurement process for the South West Kent Waste Services Contract. Members were reminded that the current contract for refuse, recycling and street cleansing was due to expire at the end of March 2027 and was being retendered on a partnership basis with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The joint report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services and the Head of Finance provided details of the tender process and an assessment of the tenders received. As previously approved by Members, the tender was for a new contract of 12 years with an option to extend by up to two years subject to mutual agreement of all parties.

The outcome of the evaluation process, including the quality and price scores of the submissions and the overall tender scores, was attached in a restricted Annex 2 due to the inclusion of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information.

In light of the partnership with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in the procurement for the future delivery of the waste services across both boroughs, due regard had been given to aligning the decision-making processes as closely as possible by both local authorities, seeking to ensure synchronised Council approvals to enable final appointment of the successful contractor.

Additionally, Members were advised that a further report would be presented for consideration of the potential options for financing of vehicles under the new contract and for other discretionary works, such as the cleansing of high speed roads.

Taking into consideration the final tender scores detailed in the restricted Annex 2, Cllr S Hudson (Chair) proposed, Cllr M Rhodes seconded and it was

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) Contractor A, identified in the restricted Annex 2 to the report, be awarded the South West Kent Waste Services Contract as detailed in the report; and
- (2) a further report setting out proposals relating to the options for the financing of vehicles deployed on the Contract, costs relating to the cleansing of High Speed Roads, and costs associated with the cleansing of a number of Public Open Spaces, be presented to the next meeting of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee for consideration.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 26/5 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

Public Spaces Protection Orders were intended to address particular nuisances or problems in particular areas detrimental to the local community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of the area to ensure the law-abiding majority could use and enjoy public spaces,

safe from anti-social behaviour. The Borough Council's current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was due to end in April 2026 and could be extended for a further three years.

The report of the Chief Executive provided feedback on the responses received on the PSPO consultation and sought approval for the PSPO attached at Annex 1.

A summary of the responses received to the consultation, undertaken between 15 September and 2 November 2025, was set out at Annex 2. The majority of those who had responded were in favour of retaining existing restrictions and supported implementing the new restrictions around the use of catapults and unauthorised camping in Tonbridge Memorial Garden.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had also responded to the consultation and given provisional support to the proposed order across the Borough. Additionally, Kent Police had been consulted and supported the restrictions as proposed in the PSPO.

Furthermore, requests arising from the consultation regarding further restrictions, such as the use of bikes or electric bikes/scooters, possession or misuse of spray paint, and unauthorised use of drones on Parish Council open spaces, were noted. While certain activities were already prohibited under existing laws, Members were reminded that any additional restrictions must satisfy the PSPO threshold test with appropriate evidence support. The challenges associated with enforcing these restrictions were highlighted, with particular reference made to driving or parking vehicles on public open spaces, as a concern shared by Members.

Cllr S Hudson (Chair) proposed, Cllr K Tunstall seconded and it was

RECOMMENDED*: That the proposed Public Space Protection Order, as presented at Annex 1, be approved.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

CE 26/6 BIODIVERSITY DUTY

(Decision Notice: D260036MEM)

The report of the Chief Executive presented a Biodiversity Duty Report (attached at Annex 1) which set out the Borough Council's progress in delivering its statutory duty to conserve, enhance and protect biodiversity (habitats and species).

Members were asked to endorse the contents of the Biodiversity Duty Report and note the progress being made by the Borough Council in

delivering its statutory biodiversity duty under the Environment Act 2021 and the amended Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The proposed future actions detailed in Section 6 of the Biodiversity Duty Report and the continuation of practical steps to conserve and enhance biodiversity across parks, open spaces and other land were summarised and noted by Members.

Cllr S Hudson (Chair) proposed, Cllr J Lark seconded and it was

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the Biodiversity Duty Report attached at Annex 1 be endorsed; and
- (2) the proposed future actions set out in Section 6 of the Biodiversity Duty Report, be approved.

***Decision taken by Cabinet Member for Housing, Environment and Economy**

CE 26/7 REVIEW OF ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVES

The report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services provided a review of the Borough Council's Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) following ecological monitoring undertaken by the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership between April and September 2025.

Members were advised that Roadside Nature Reserves were introduced in 2022 and that the monitoring work had identified a wide range of plant species and invertebrates across the sites. It was reported that the RNRs were functioning as wildlife corridors, contributing positively to biodiversity and climate resilience.

A number of management recommendations were proposed with the aim of further enhancing biodiversity, including changes to mowing regimes, the sowing of seed mixes at selected locations, the provision of signage, the expansion of certain existing RNRs and the creation of new sites. It was noted that, subject to approval, the proposals would be implemented through a variation to the Grounds Maintenance contract.

During discussion, Members supported the principle of Roadside Nature Reserves and the wider objectives of enhancing biodiversity across the Borough. However, specific concerns were raised in relation to River Lawn in Tonbridge, with Members highlighting its established use as an amenity space by local residents and its status as the subject of an ongoing Village Green application. An amendment was therefore

proposed by Cllr S Pilgrim and seconded by Cllr F Hoskins that River Lawn be removed from the Roadside Nature Reserves programme and returned to a normal mowing regime. The motion was supported by the Committee.

The Committee then considered the remaining recommendations within the report and agreed to support them as set out. Cllr S Hudson (Chair) proposed, Cllr M Rhodes seconded and it was

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) Priority 1 and 2 recommendations within the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership report, attached in Annex 1, be progressed;
- (2) Existing Roadside Nature Reserves, shown in Annex 2, be expanded, subject to the exclusion of River Lawn in Tonbridge from the Roadside Nature Reserves programme; and
- (3) New Roadside Nature Reserves, as shown in Annex 3, be created.

***Recommended to Cabinet**

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

CE 26/8 CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO UPDATE

The report of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste and Technical Services provided an overview of the activities undertaken over the past 12 months in respect of waste, recycling, street scene, enforcement, parking, engineering and emergency planning within the Borough Council. Headline initiatives for the coming year were also outlined.

Discussion focused on the operation and review of parking arrangements across the Borough, including on-street and Sunday parking, the provision of free parking, and differences in parking approaches between areas. While recognising the benefits of introducing the new parking arrangements to support improved parking turnover, better availability of short-stay parking, and the role of parking management in enhancing town centre vitality, Members also noted the importance of monitoring the impact of the arrangements on residential areas, including displacement and enforcement issues.

Additionally, the supermarket parking refund schemes and their relationship to the wider town centre activity, alongside the need to review parking arrangements within the context of the Borough Council's overall financial position and service priorities, were also considered. The importance of continuing engagement with local stakeholders as

part of any future review process was acknowledged, and it was noted that a number of the issues raised would be considered further through future reviews with reports to Members in due course.

Overall positive progress being made within the Waste and Technical Services were noted and well received by the Committee.

CE 26/9 WORK PROGRAMME 2026

The Work Programme setting out matters to be scrutinised during the next year 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 26/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no matters considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.48 pm

Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee

20 May 2026

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Cabinet - Non-key Decision



www.tmbc.gov.uk

Cabinet Member	Cllr Martin Coffin, Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste and Technical Services
Responsible Officer	Robert Styles, Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services
Report Author	Darren Lanes, Head of Street Scene & Leisure David Campbell-Lenaghan, South West Kent Waste Partnership Manager

Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27 for Member comment and endorsement.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 “Efficient & Effective Council” and “Caring for the Environment”
- 2.2 Delivering services innovatively and in the most cost-effective & efficient way; Improving levels of waste reduction & recycling; tackling sources of pollution.
- 2.3 The development of a Waste Marketing Plan is a specific action identified within the Council’s Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) for 2026/27. Initiatives within the Plan also support other ASDP actions and KPI’s.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is RECOMMENDED that:
- 3.2 Members consider the draft Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27 for comment and endorsement by Cabinet.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 At the meeting of this Committee on 4 March 2026, Members were presented with an overview from the Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste & Technical Services of activities undertaken over the previous 12 months. As part of that overview,

Members were advised of a variety of initiatives delivered through the Waste Marketing Plan 2025/26. These included:

- 4.2 Revamp of the Council's waste & recycling pages (<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/waste>);
- 4.3 Food waste campaign;
- 4.4 Events – including VE Day 80, East Maling Picnic in the Park, Tonbridge Food Festival and Tonbridge Christmas Market;
- 4.5 Development of the 'Shake It Out' campaign to encourage residents to put recycling loose into the green-lidded bins, rather than in bags;
- 4.6 Development of the carton recycling campaign in preparation for the Council's duty under the Simpler Recycling legislation.
- 4.7 The Cabinet Member advised that the Waste Marketing Plan for 2026/27 would be developed and reported back to this Committee meeting. The new Plan would build upon actions taken to date.

5 Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27

- 5.1 The draft Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27 can be found at **Annex 1** and outlines a structured, well-resourced programme of communications, engagement activities, and behaviour change initiatives designed to improve recycling performance, increase correct material capture, reduce contamination, and support statutory waste service objectives for the 2026/27 financial year.
- 5.2 The draft Plan demonstrates strong alignment with corporate environmental goals, Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) priorities, and national policy changes such as Simpler Recycling and enhanced food waste capture. It also reflects a proactive, community focused approach, integrating events, campaigns, measurement, and continuous improvement.

6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 6.1 The overall planned spend totals £45,000 (£0.80 per household), with individual allocations clearly defined with other initiatives delivered through existing staff resources. The Plan is funded in part through the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Payments and a carry-over of the Defra Food Waste Grant from financial year 2025/26, ensuring good value for money and minimising pressure on core service budgets.
- 6.2 The balance of programme activities relies on officer time and partnership collaboration, ensuring that resources are used efficiently while maintaining service quality and campaign reach.

7 Risk Assessment

7.1 There is a risk that if the Plan is not actioned it will result in recycling rates for the Council being harder to achieve.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 None associated with this report. All comply with the Council's statutory and discretionary obligations and relevant legislation.

9 Consultation and Communications

9.1 This report ensures that all Members are aware of work undertaken within the relevant service areas and how the initiatives assist in delivering the Council's Corporate Strategy and Annual Service Delivery Plan. Close liaison will be undertaken with the Council's Media and Comms team.

10 Implementation

10.1 The initiatives detailed above are delivered with the assistance of other Council departments such as the Media team, to try to maximise efficiency and effectiveness, whilst delivering the Council's statutory duties.

11 Cross Cutting Issues

11.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

11.1.1 A number of the initiatives detailed above will help to deliver on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

11.2 Equalities and Diversity

11.2.1 The initiatives detailed in this report have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 - Waste Marketing Plan 2026/27

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Project/Initiative/Actions	Lead Officer	Cost	Timeline				RAG Rating
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Initiatives							
East Malling/Larkfield/Snodland/Borough Green Community Events	AS/TR	£400					Planning stage
Tonbridge Food Festival/Dragon Boat Race	AS/TR/Comms	£1,600					Planning stage
Tesco Larkfield Food Waste/Recycling event	AS/TR	Staff					Planning stage
KRP "Shake It Out" campaign (loose recycling, no bags)	AS/TR/Comms	Staff					Ongoing
School/community group visits	TR/Climate Change	Staff					Planning stage
Supermarket Pop-ups - Sainsburys, Tonbridge	AS/TR/Comms	£500					Planning stage
Welcome Back Tetrapak	AS/TLR/COMMS	£1,500					Planning stage
Food Waste Focus (increase capture/divert from black bin)	AS/TLR/COMMS	£5,000					Ongoing
Plastics Recycling Campaign		£3,500					Planning with KRP
Simpler Recycling - plastic films		£2,500					Planning stage
Christmas Recycling – social media campaign	TR/Comms	Staff					Annual campaign
'Journey of Waste' KRP subgroup sessions	AS/TR	£3,000					Ongoing
Carton Campaign - Simpler Recycling	AS	£500					Ongoing
Big Spring Clean - equipment & collections	TR/Comms	£5,000					Ongoing
Litter picking volunteer encouraged to separate recyclables	TR	Staff					Ongoing
KRP Duty of Care campaign	TR/KD/Comms	£1,500					Planning stage
Banners on existing collection vehicles	DCL/Comms	£20,000					Planning stage
COSTS		£45,000					
Measurement and Monitoring							
KRP Residual Waste Audits - review & identify key priorities	DL/DCL	Staff					Ongoing
Monthly meetings to coordinate comms and campaign activities	AS/TR/Comms	Staff					Ongoing
Seek suggestions from Members on Action Plan	RJS/DCL	Staff					CESSC May
Review/reflect on recycling target	RJS/DL/DCL	Staff					Ongoing
Measure recycling rates against quarterly KPIs	DL/DCL	Staff					Ongoing
COSTS							

TOTAL PLANNED SPEND		£45,000
BUDGET - Defra Food Waste Grant		£25,000
BUDGET - EPR Payments		£35,000
BALANCE		£15,000

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5 Climate Change Action Plan Year 6 Progress Report

- 5.1 The 2025/26 Progress Report, attached at Annex 1, demonstrates strong delivery across a diverse programme of activity. Progress has been achieved across key areas including decarbonisation of the Council's estate, expansion of renewable energy, waste initiatives, and support for businesses, communities and residents.
- 5.2 The report highlights continued focus on tackling the most significant sources of emissions, particularly within the leisure facilities, alongside the continued implementation of projects delivering low-carbon infrastructure improvements. Detailed monitoring of progress against the full Action Plan, including RAG ratings, is provided in the annex to the 2025/26 Progress Report.
- 5.3 One action is currently red rated, relating to the environmental standards of licensed taxis. This will be taken forward during 2026/27.

6 Climate Change Action Plan Year 7 2026/27

- 6.1 Attached at Annex 2 is the Climate Change Action Plan for 2026/27, which sets out the actions and key milestones to support delivery of climate change commitments over the coming year.
- 6.2 The Action Plan includes a range of activity across services, comprising ongoing, short-term and multi-year projects. This includes delivery of decarbonisation projects across the estate, embedding sustainability within corporate processes, and housing-related energy efficiency projects.
- 6.3 All measures set out within the Action Plan contribute positively towards the Council's longer-term ambition of achieving carbon neutrality and represent practical steps to reduce emissions and improve environmental performance. While it is recognised that delivery of the full ambition by 2030 will continue to be challenging, the actions proposed for 2026/27 ensure that momentum is maintained and that progress is made wherever feasible.
- 6.4 This will place the Council in the strongest possible position ahead of local government reorganisation, at which point target dates, priorities and actions will need to be reviewed in the context of wider unitary authority commitments.
- 6.5 Funding opportunities will continue to be monitored, and delivery plans adapted where appropriate if external funding becomes available.

7 Other Options

- 7.1 The council has committed to monitoring and reporting on its climate change actions, so there is no credible alternative option to producing and making the report in the Annex publicly available.

8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 8.1 The activities in the climate change action plan are funded, or have been completed using funding, grant monies and value for money assessments previously agreed with the relevant service.
- 8.2 The Chief Executive confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

9 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 TMBC has committed to the aspiration of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and to annual reporting on action plan progress. There is a reputational risk associated with not publishing the annexes to this report.

10 Legal Implications

- 10.1 None.

11 Consultation and Communications

- 11.1 The reports in the Annex will be published on the Climate Change section of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council website.

12 Implementation

- 12.1 Each service lead is responsible for implementing the activities within the Climate Change Action Plan, with support from the Climate Change Officer as required.

13 Cross Cutting Issues

- 13.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity
 - 13.1.1 Some impact on reducing emissions in support of carbon neutral by 2030 or enhancing the natural environment.
 - 13.1.2 Climate change advice has been sought in the preparation of the options and recommendations in this report.
 - 13.1.3 The reports in the Annexes support delivery of climate change commitments by monitoring progress in 2025/26 and setting out actions for 2026/27. The Action Plan includes measures to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, and enhance biodiversity through activities such as tree planting and habitat management.

13.2 Equalities and Diversity

13.2.1 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.

13.3 Other If Relevant

- None

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 Climate Change Action Plan Year 6 Progress Report 2025/26 Annex 2 Climate Change Action Plan Year 7 2026/27



Climate Change Action Plan Year 6 Progress Report

2025-26

Contents

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1. Introduction

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (TMBC) published its Climate Change Strategy following a motion adopted by Full Council in July 2019, which set the aspiration for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2030 and committed the Council to developing a strategy to support this.

Achieving carbon neutral is ambitious and requires commitment throughout the Council, from day to day working to large scale investments that address the most significant sources of emissions. Successful climate change action requires both measurable reductions in emissions and improved readiness and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030 is delivered through a rolling Climate Change Action Plan, which is updated annually and sets out the actions the Council will take to reduce emissions and progress towards becoming carbon neutral. While the strategy identified key focus areas, the themes have been refined to better align with TMBC's current service delivery.

This report summarises progress and achievements delivered through the Climate Change Action Plan 2025-26. Emissions from the Council's estate and operations are measured annually and reported through the Carbon Audit. Progress is also monitored through the TMBC Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP).

TMBC publishes its [Climate Change Action Plans, Progress Reports](#) and [Carbon Audits](#) on the Council website, with the aim of publishing the latest annual reports by the end of July each year.

Borough-wide emissions data is published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) with a two-year time-lag. Opportunities to incorporate borough-wide emissions data within future carbon audits will be considered.

2. Progress in 2025-26

TMBC made good progress during 2025-26 on actions to reduce emissions and address 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 2025-26 climate change action plan contained 36 actions, covering a mix of time-bound activities completed within the reporting year, continuing workstreams that support ongoing delivery, and multi-year projects that extend beyond the current action plan period.

To provide clear progress reporting, RAG status is now applied to the key milestones scheduled for the reporting year, rather than to the long-term continuation of the activity. Where milestones have been delivered as planned, actions are recorded as green. Previously, actions relating to longer term activities were sometimes reported as amber or ongoing, even where the work for the reporting period had been delivered.

Of the key milestones in the 2025-26 climate change action plan, 72% have been completed and 25% remain in progress, as shown in Figure 1. One action was delayed during the reporting period due to a number of challenges, which is to be revisited in 2026-27. The proportion of actions and progress across each theme is summarised in Table 1. The complete monitoring report on all actions is provided in the Annex.

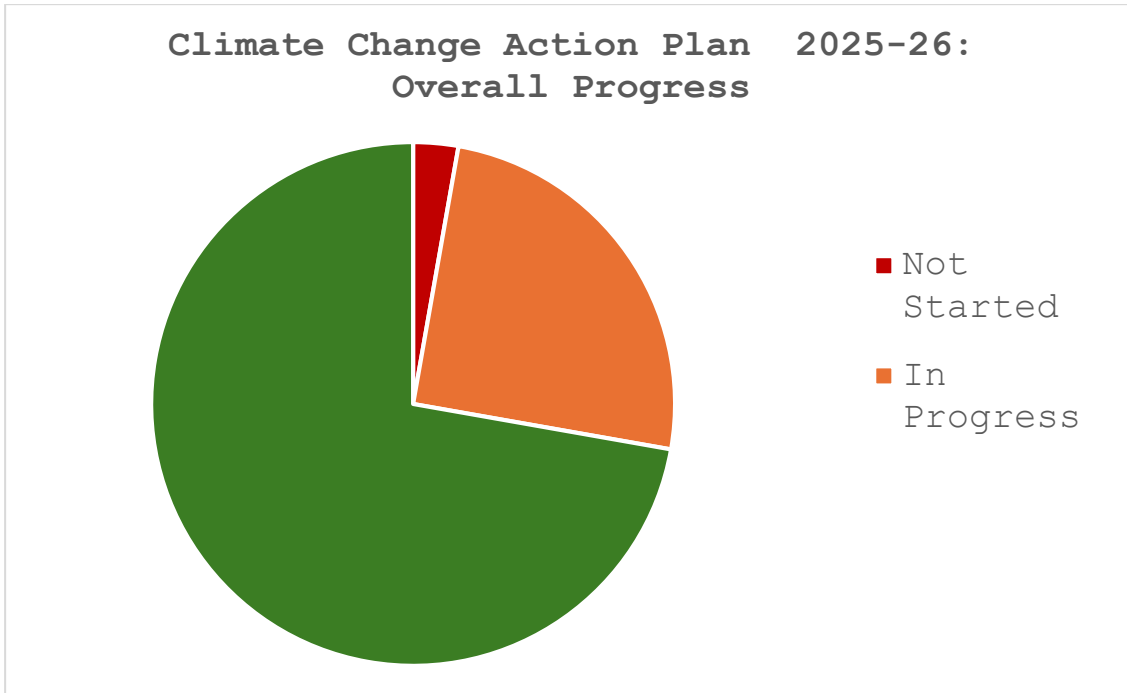


Figure 1: Overall progress of the 2025–26 Climate Change Action Plan

Table 1: Progress of climate change actions by theme

	Policy & Engagement	Sustainable Dev & Transport	ULEV	Air Quality	Habitats & Biodiversity	Housing & Energy	Waste & Recycling	Community & Business	TMBC Estate	Total Actions
% Completed	100%	100%	60%	0%	100%	100%	100%	71%	33%	72%
% In Progress	0%	0%	20%	100%	0%	0%	0%	29%	67%	25%
% Not Started	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%

2.1 Key achievements

Key actions delivered during 2025–26

The following section highlights a selection of key actions delivered during 2025–26, aligned with priorities set out in the Climate Change Action Plan. These actions reflect progress across the Council’s operations, as well as work with residents, businesses and communities to reduce emissions and improve climate resilience across the borough.

Council Operations

- Council building retrofit underway at Gibson East to reduce operational emissions
- Two leisure centre decarbonisation projects progressing
- 80 energy-efficient laptops rolled out to staff

Nature and Environment

- Over 1,000 trees planted across the borough

Waste and Resources

- Two waste composition audits completed to inform future recycling initiatives
- 2,000 food waste bins ordered to support expanded food waste recycling for residents
- 19% increase in food waste recycling

Community and Businesses

- Eight local businesses supported through green grant funding
- 26 solar PV installations, 22 battery systems and 3 retrofit batteries delivered through the Solar Together scheme
- Schools provided with anti-idling signage, 10 schools engaged to date

2.2 TMBC estate and operations

Tackling major sources of emissions

Leisure facilities remain the most significant source of emissions within TMBC's operational estate. In previous reporting years, leisure facilities have accounted for up to 62% of the Council's Scope 3 emissions, highlighting the importance of continued investment in decarbonisation.

During 2025-26, several projects progressed to support emissions reduction across the Council's leisure estate. At Larkfield Leisure Centre, installation of an air source heat pump and air handling unit is being delivered through Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and TMBC funding, alongside previous LED lighting and solar photovoltaic panels installations. While some delays have been encountered relating to equipment delivery and legal agreements, the project continues to progress and remains an important step in reducing operational emissions at the site.

Work was undertaken to explore options for the decarbonisation of heat at Tonbridge Swimming Pool. While several options were examined, current funding constraints mean that replacement of the boilers with low-carbon alternatives is not presently viable.

In addition, the Council previously secured funding through PSDS, alongside Council capital funding, to replace the end-of-life oil boilers at Poulton Wood Golf Centre with a low-carbon heat pump system. The project progressed through design and an open market procurement exercise; however, the contract could not be awarded due to higher than anticipated costs. A review of the design is now underway to inform next steps.

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. Work to decarbonise Gibson East, as part of the Council's rationalisation of office space at Kings Hill, is progressing. The contract for the project was awarded in 2025. The scheme includes the installation of heat pumps, solar PV and LED lighting. Works are underway and, following a minor adjustment to the delivery programme, the project is expected to complete in August 2026.

Actions to decarbonise the TMBC fleet and to continue the roll-out of more energy-efficient devices, alongside wider digitisation and mobile solutions, are ongoing. To date, three of the Council's eight parking vehicles have been replaced with electric vehicles. The programme to replace staff devices with more energy-efficient equivalents has exceeded the original 2025-26 target, and several projects were identified and implemented across key services improving efficiency and automation. Additional projects are progressing.

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 and Biodiversity

The council has continued to make progress in enhancing habitats and biodiversity across its estate. The annual target to plant 1,000 trees and whips has been achieved. In total, 2426 mixed native trees and whips were planted at 17 Council owned sites across the Borough, supporting a net gain in tree numbers. Funding has also been secured through Kent Plan Tree to support the watering programme and improve tree establishment.

Work has also progressed to enhance biodiversity within existing Roadside Nature Reserves and additional sites have been identified that could benefit from revised mowing regimes to support wildlife. A pollinator pledge is also being developed.

2.3 Climate action across the Borough

Housing and Energy Conservation

The council has continued to support renewable energy uptake for residents through the energy group-buying Solar Together scheme delivered in partnership with Kent County Council. Targeted promotion was undertaken for the Spring round and TMBC participated in the Autumn 2025 round of the scheme. This has resulted in a total of 26 solar PV, 22 battery storage and 3 retrofit battery storage installations during the reporting period.

Waste Minimisation and Recycling

Work has continued to promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling through events, communications and Kent-wide initiatives. The roll-out of food waste collections to flats in key urban hotspots is ongoing, to further expand access to food waste recycling across the borough. Waste composition analysis, funded through KCC/WRAP, was undertaken to identify the key materials remaining in the residual waste stream and inform future waste initiatives. A programme of targeted campaigns, has also been delivered throughout the year, helping to increase resident awareness of recycling and food waste reduction. Food waste recycling increased by over 19% across the period.

Community and Business Engagement

The Council has continued to support local businesses in reducing emissions by providing up to date information, resources and grant information. Financial support has been delivered through several grant schemes funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, including the Green Business Grant, the West Kent Rural Grant as well as the Community Development Grants, which supports local community initiatives. The 2025-26 funding rounds were delivered and completed. Further rounds of the Green Business Grant are on track for delivery in the 2026-27 financial year.

Feedback from a grant recipient, Capital Space, highlights the impact of this support:

“This is an excellent scheme in that without the grant, the savings made would not have justified the capex – the pay back periods would have been beyond what the business could have accepted. The grant enabled us to carry out work that not only reduced costs, but has also saved a considerable amount of fossil fuel being used by the buildings. This is always important – but particularly so with the buildings at Churchill Square, which are listed and therefore incapable of significant adaptation.”

To date, 58 electric vehicle (EV) charging sockets have been installed and commissioned in council-owned car parks across the borough. Delivery of Phase 2 infrastructure, in partnership with Connected Kerb, is now complete and supports residents, businesses and visitors in transitioning to lower-carbon travel. The infrastructure comprises 42 standard (7kW), 14 fast (22kW) and 2 rapid (50kW) charging sockets. Further sockets have been installed and are awaiting commissioning.

Annex: action plan 2025-26 monitoring

Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26

YEAR SIX MONITORING REPORT

Key		
Completed	In Progress	Not Started

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council	Deliver climate change training to staff and Members, offering courses on an ongoing basis	Ongoing	In person briefing delivered to all staff by March 2026 Further enhanced training delivered to key staff/Members by March 2026		Following the end of carbon literacy training subsidy for local authorities, alternative training has been implemented. This includes an e-learning package for staff and Members, carbon literacy training has been offered via KCC and the LGA. An update was delivered at the January 2026 All Staff Briefing. Training uptake to be monitored in 2026/27.
Monitor and report Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's carbon emissions	Ensure all Climate Change Action Plans, Progress Reports and Carbon Audits are easily accessible and published on the climate change webpage	July 2025	Action plans, progress reports and audits endorsed at Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee in July 2025, published on website by end of July 2025		The Climate Change Action Plan 2025/26, Progress Report and Carbon Audit for 2024/25 were endorsed at CESSC in July. Reports were published on the TMBC website in October (completed later than originally scheduled).
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	Represent the council at climate change partnership meetings throughout the year		TMBC's Climate Change Officer participates in KCC's Climate Change Network and relevant sub-groups to share case studies, best practice examples, and identify possible areas for collaboration.
Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate	Continue to engage with the delivery of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) through TMBC's actions and partnership working	Ongoing	Represent the council at climate change partnership meetings throughout the year		TMBC continues to engage with the delivery of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy at local level and in partnership.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Sustainable Development	Continue to pursue planning policies in the Council's emerging Local Plan that will facilitate the delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation, design measures and sustainable development patterns, progressing to Regulation 18 and public consultation, drawing on updated evidence, including on green infrastructure and climate change	Ongoing	Public consultation underway by Autumn 2025		Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation was undertaken in November 2025–January 2026, including draft planning policies supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable design, and green infrastructure. Work will continue toward Regulation 19.
Sustainable Development	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	Continue to deliver sustainable development outcomes in accordance with the adopted development plan		The Development Management team continue to determine planning applications in line with the Council's adopted development plan unless superseded with national legislation / policy. Policy to be updated under the Local Plan.
Transport. Support the improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough	Complete preparation of the new active travel strategy which will include cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations	Autumn 2025	Publish draft strategy by Autumn 2025		This work continues to progress alongside the preparation of the Local Plan. The draft Active Travel Strategy was published for consultation in November 2025, aligned with the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/file/4025/active-travel-strategy
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	September 2025	Completion of phase 2 by September 2025	G	Installation of Phase 2 EV charging infrastructure is complete. Delivery experienced delays during implementation.
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	Transition to ULEV will continue with careful consideration of business need and resilience		As and when vehicles reach end of life, options will be fully reviewed.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Air Quality	Provide wider information regarding taxi EV charging provision as those installations progress	Ongoing	As and when new charge points are installed, engagement via social media/website to ensure widespread knowledge of EV capacity in the borough		No new taxi EV charge point installations were delivered during the reporting period. Therefore, engagement activity was not required. Communications will be undertaken alongside future installations.
	Continue engagement with KCC through the Climate Change Network regarding future taxi licencing. Share with trade and participate in schemes as appropriate, for example 'try before you buy'	Ongoing	Advertise "try before you buy" sessions with the trade		No events were scheduled during the 2025-26 period to promote. TMBC promoted the Drive Electric event in Maidstone (April 2026). Details of event were emailed to the Taxi trade (599 drivers) to promote the event and encourage them to attend.
	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	Consider options and present to Licensing and Appeals Committee by March 2026		Progress on this action has been limited during the reporting period, reflecting resource constraints, changes in personnel, and the need to develop a clear and supported approach. Further work is required to establish direction, and the action will continue into 2026–27.
	Continue the full implementation of a borough wide Anti-idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines	Ongoing	Anti – idling posters to all primary schools in the borough by December 2025 Promotion via social media campaign by March 2026		Schools contacted borough-wide, with those engaging provided with anti-idling signage. Campaign (social media and leaflets) delayed due to resourcing constraints, delivery is proposed to be undertaken when capacity allows.
	Pilot a Car Club within the Council for individuals use in local communities	March 2026	Develop staff survey to establish usage by Autumn 2025 Report finding to Management Team by end of 2025		Survey has been delayed while car club provider options were refreshed to ensure current models and costs are accurately reflected. A draft survey has been developed to help inform potential uptake/usage amongst staff. Options and proposed survey will be taken to Management Team for approval prior to circulation.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
	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 than are removed to ensure an annual net gain overall.	Ongoing	1000 trees planted by March 2026		Target achieved – 1000 trees planted.
	Investigate additional sites that may be suitable for RNRs instead of participating in No Mow May	March 2026	Investigate additional sites by December 2025 Implement new mowing regime at selected sites by March 2026		36 additional sites have been identified for consideration, along with 9 existing sites where plot areas could be extended. Mowing at these sites would be reduced from 12 occasions per year to one occasion per year (in September), including the collection of arisings. Implementation of the revised mowing regime from March 2026 was approved by the Communities & Environment Scrutiny Select Committee, with the exception of one site and agreed by Cabinet in April 2026.
	Using the recommendations provided within the Roadside Nature Reserve (RNR) monitoring program, enhance biodiversity within existing RNR's	March 2026	Review recommendations in RNR monitoring report in November 2025 Action recommendations in Spring 2026, subject to approval		Recommendations from the RNR monitoring report have been reviewed. A report was presented to the Communities & Environment Scrutiny Select Committee (CESSC) in March 2026 and the proposed actions were approved, with the exception of one site. Implementation of the agreed recommendations will proceed following Cabinet approval in April 2026.
	Consider options and partnership funding opportunities for tree watering to aid and support the establishment of all trees planted by the Borough Council	March 2026	Continue to implement watering programme developed with Kent Plan Tree		Awarded funding through Kent Plan Tree, funding secured for 2026.
	Consider adopting a pollinator pledge	March 2026	Investigate options by end of 2025		Potential pledge is in initial draft.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes	Collaborate with Kent County Council and iChoosr to make solar PV and batteries more accessible and affordable for our residents by delivering a group buying scheme. Deliver a marketing campaign with Kent County Council to target eligible households to participate Solar Together Kent.	Ongoing	Participate and collaborate with KCC in any future rounds of Solar Together during 2025/26		The Council undertook targeted promotion for Spring 2025 and also participated in Autumn 2025 rounds of Solar Together with a total of 26 solar PV, 22 battery storage and 3 retrofit battery storage installations completed.
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	Ongoing	Attendance at VE Day event – May 2025 Attendance at Picnic in the Park (East Malling) - June 2025 Major Food Waste campaign planned for October 2025		Delivered active promotion at multiple events to increase awareness of recycling and food waste. Representation at KRP meetings continues. Additional activity has included improvements to the KCC website and delivery of targeted WRAP campaigns, including Metals Matter and Pumpkin Rescue.
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	September 2025	Complete final phase by Summer 2025		Implementation of food waste collection was completed across key urban hotspots in November/December (completed later than originally scheduled).
Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle	Continue working with KRP and national partners such as WRAP and Recoup (plastic specific)	Ongoing	WRAP project to identify efficiencies in waste disposal and collection in Kent. Initial findings to be presented July 2025.		Work with national partners continues, with activity predominantly focused on food waste. A waste composition analysis, funded through KCC/WRAP, has been completed, with results shared in November (completed later than originally scheduled). Findings highlighted food waste, WEEE, textiles, and non-recyclable textiles (including duvets).

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Delivery of Round 5 of the Green Business Grant Scheme to support local businesses/organisations with capital investments, including PV panels, heat source pumps, LED lighting and insulation	March 2026	Grants awarded July 2025 Minimum of 5 carbon reduction/energy efficiency projects completed by March 2026		Five grants awarded through Round 5. As of 31 March 2026, three projects have completed, one has now secured planning permission but has been extended into 2026/27, and another did not take up the offer of a grant. Round 6 launched February 2026 and has seen a higher level of interest. This round will close in April 2026.
Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Delivery of the West Kent Rural Grant scheme, including grant support for energy efficiency measures	March 2026	Minimum of 5 carbon reduction/energy efficiency projects by March 2026		Funding allocated to nine projects by September 2025, including five with sustainability/carbon-reduction elements. These have now all been completed. Government confirmed there will be no further funding for 2026/27.
Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin, with at least 2 articles per annum	Ongoing	2 articles by March 2026		Two articles produced, with the most recent one in March 2026. In addition, there have also been several project level articles relating to climate change/carbon reduction (see below).
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.	Work with KCC and local business to share and signpost information, support and grants for business carbon reduction	Ongoing	Continue to promote and refer organisations to KCC low carbon support and advice – ongoing		Ongoing promotion via articles. For example, February 2026 business e-bulletin promoted the Low Carbon Kent ISEP Sustainability Skills courses.
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.	Build collaborative working and public engagement with the Climate Change Forum, identifying areas for joint Council and community climate and environment action	Ongoing	Support Green/Environment events in the community throughout the year, attending events to promote climate change messaging. Work with the Climate Change Forum on initiatives and activities to raise awareness and encourage wider participation in environmental action.		The Climate Change Forum continues to meet quarterly to develop opportunities for community engagement on climate action. A number of events were attended throughout the year.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Support communities, voluntary groups and Parishes in taking climate action	Deliver Round 3 of Community Development Grants, 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	October 2025	Launch scheme in July 2025 Close scheme September 2025 Distribute grants October 2025		Round 3 of the Community Development Grants, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, distributed grants to a range of projects underway in 2025/26, including energy-efficiency projects and pond creation projects.
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	Promotion of energy efficient adaptations to Poulton Wood Golf Centre – March 2026 Promotion of “No Mow May” throughout April/May 2025 Green Flag Award promotion (Haysden Country Park) by August 2025 Promotion of “Love Parks Week” - By July 2025 Event and social media regarding food waste at VE Day Celebrations – May 2025 Social media campaign to reduce food waste – Sept 2025 Fly tipping campaign – promote to residents and raise awareness of how to report fly tipping and arrange for legal collections of waste – Autumn 2025 Christmas campaign around wrapping/recycling - Dec 2025 Promote Food Waste Action Week – March 2026		Environmental communications were delivered throughout the year via campaigns, events, press releases, and social media. Strong engagement achieved through food waste campaigns. A small number of activities were postponed or delayed, including “Love Parks Week”, the fly-tipping campaign and food waste action week. Communications activity contributed to measurable improvements in engagement and behaviour change. Food waste recycling increased by over 19% across the period, alongside a significant uplift in digital engagement, including a 125% increase in visits to food waste web pages and a 22% increase in overall recycling-related web traffic. In addition to the planned programme, a range of further communications and engagement activities were delivered during the year, including: Green Business Grants promotion, “My Account” and paperless billing campaign, Great British Spring Clean, Miyawaki copse planting, “Shake It Out” recycling campaign, Global Recycling Day, Haysden Country Park accreditation, CommuniGrow solar panel launch event, TMBC staff travel survey.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
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 oil boilers at Poulton Wood Golf Centre, using the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund grant from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by Salix	October 2026	Completion of design phase – Sept 2025 Completion of procurement exercise – Feb 2026 Completion of work – Oct 2026		An open market procurement exercise was undertaken; however the contract could not be awarded due to high cost. A review of the design is now being undertaken to inform next steps
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 2026	Installation of heat pumps – Dec 2025 Installation of air handling unit – Nov 2025 Completion – Feb 2026		The project is progressing. Some delays were encountered with delivery of equipment and legal agreements which will slightly delay completion to summer 2026.
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Develop heat decarbonisation plans for Tonbridge Pool with a view to removing the gas fired boilers	September 2025	Assessment of options – August 2025 Final option and design work – Sept 2025		Options have been explored and reported to Members. Current funding constraints mean that replacement of the existing gas boilers with low-carbon alternatives is not presently viable. Options are being explored for other ways to decarbonise.
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Decarbonise Gibson East as part of the Council's rationalisation of Kings Hill office space	February 2026	Award of contract – July 2025 Installation of heat pumps, solar PV and LED lighting – January 2026 Scheme completion – Feb 2026		Project is progressing, solar panels installed February. Delivery timescale has been slightly adjusted, completion expected August 2026.
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 2026	80 laptops to be replaced with energy efficient equivalents over the year (20 per quarter)		Target has been achieved, with outcomes exceeded with an extra 20 delivered.

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Key milestones	Status	Update
Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients	Business process re-engineering, mobile solutions and digitisation to improve efficiency and reduce carbon footprint continues across services	Ongoing	Continue mapping current solutions with SDS. After approval, these are then passed to the Solution Architect for re-engineering and then to IT Dev team for implementation.		A number of re-engineering projects have been progressed during 2025–26 to improve efficiency, automation, and customer access. Key services delivered within the reporting period include DVLA, the SNN Portal and Corporate Complaints. A further five services have progressed through development readiness, with additional projects ongoing.

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 2026/27
YEAR SEVEN MONITORING REPORT

Theme	Action	Lead Service	Timescale	Key milestones
Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council	Deliver climate change training to staff and Members, offering courses on an ongoing basis	Executive	December 2026	Evaluate uptake of current e-learning and external courses by September 2026 Define next steps to enhance training by December 2026
Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council	Embed climate change and sustainability considerations into project management forms, ensuring sustainability is considered at project initiation and delivery stages	Economic Regen	March 2027	Review existing project management templates, including business case template, to identify opportunities to strengthen climate and sustainability considerations by July 2026 Update project management forms and guidance by December 2026 Implement revised project management documentation for all new projects by March 2027
Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the Council	Work in partnership to strengthen sustainability and carbon reduction requirements within the Sustainability Procurement Policy	TWBC	March 2027	Understand scope and direction of policy review by July 2026 Provide TMBC input into development/review of policy by December 2026. Support progression of updated procurement approach during 2026/27
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	Executive	July 2026	Action plans, progress reports and audits endorsed at Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee by July 2026, published on website by end of July 2026

Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate change	Support wider partnership working with KCC and the Climate Change Network (CCN), sharing best practice and identifying opportunities for collaboration	Executive	March 2027	Attend climate change network meetings, minimum of 4 per year during 2026/27 Support delivery of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) Complete ELES Annual Monitoring return by March 2027 Share key outcomes with internal teams
Sustainable Development	Progress climate change adaptation and mitigation through planning policies within the Council's emerging Local Plan, supporting sustainable development patterns and design measures, informed by updated evidence including green infrastructure and climate change considerations, progressing towards Regulation 19 consultation	Planning	December 2026	Local Plan submission to the Planning Inspectorate by December 2026
Sustainable Development	Apply sustainable development and climate change policies through the planning application process in accordance with the adopted development plan, national policy and material planning considerations	Planning	Ongoing	Continue to apply sustainable development policies in accordance with the adopted development plan
Transport. Support the improvement of walking and cycling infrastructure in the borough	Complete preparation of the Council's Active Travel Strategy, including cycling and walking infrastructure recommendations	Planning	December 2026	Publish Active Travel Strategy by December 2026
Provide electric charging points across the borough	Ensure oversight of EV charging infrastructure rollout within the borough, including the KCC-led Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project	Technical Services	Ongoing	Persuade Kent County Council (KCC) to provide regular updates to the Joint Transportation Board (JTB) on the delivery of the LEVI-funded on-street charging programme Maintain an overview of borough-wide EV infrastructure provision

Decarbonise TMBC owned vehicles	Support consideration of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) within the parking fleet in line with the capital renewals programme and expected lifespan	Technical Services	Ongoing	Review parking vehicle replacement options on a case by case basis with careful consideration of business need and resilience
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Provide wider information regarding taxi EV charging provision as those installations progress	Licensing	Ongoing	Promote new EV charge point installations, via social media/website to ensure widespread knowledge of EV capacity in the borough during 2026/27
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Engage with KCC through the Climate Change Network to support transition of the licensed taxi trade towards ultra-low emission vehicles, sharing information with trade and participating in relevant schemes as appropriate	Licensing	Ongoing	Promote ULEV events / sessions with the taxi trade
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Progress strategy for future of licensed taxi fleet through Licensing & Appeals Committee report on air quality, changes in the licensed taxi vehicle fleet, and proposals for vehicle requirements to 2030	Licensing	September 2026	Initial report to MT prior to L&A Committee in September 2026
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Develop a Taxi EV transition position to 2030	Licensing	December 2026	Publish a Taxi EV Transition Statement setting out the Council's position, direction of travel, and indicative transition pathway to 2030 by December 2026
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Identify EV charging infrastructure for the taxi trade	Licensing	Autumn 2026	Identify rapid charge locations suitable for taxi use in council car parks and town centres by Autumn 2026
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Support transition of the licensed taxi trade to ULEVs through partnership working.	Licensing	Ongoing	Continue to liaise with KCC on a designated Taxi EV charger location
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Explore incentives to support taxi EV transition	Licensing	December 2026	Assess feasibility of a preferential tariff or access arrangement for licensed taxis at council chargepoints - December 2026
Licensed Taxi Vehicle Transition	Provide targeted information and guidance to the taxi trade	Licensing	March 2027	Produce and share a Taxi EV Information Pack and with the licensed taxi trade by March 2027

Review air quality and put measures in place to reduce emissions	Work in partnership on the development of TMBC's revised Air Quality Action Plan	Env. Health	February 2027	Consultant appointed Draft plan in development by February 2027
Review air quality and put measures in place to reduce emissions	Investigate options for new locations for continuous air quality monitoring	Env. Health	December 2026	Identify locations Investigate funding opportunities by December 2026
Transport	Develop and seek approval for a pilot car club within the Council for individuals use in local communities	Env. Health	December 2026	Complete staff travel survey by Autumn 2026 Progress pilot car club scheme dependant on Management Team approval by December 2026
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Deliver an annual programme of tree planting. Planting a mixture of 1000 trees and whips in appropriate areas of Council Owned Land. Following planting, monitor planted trees to ensure best chance of establishment, and plant more trees than are removed to ensure an annual net gain overall.	Leisure	December 2026	1000 trees planted
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Enhance urban biodiversity, increase tree canopy cover and support community involvement in habitat creation	Leisure	March 2027	Deliver woodland, tree and hedgerow planting initiatives on Council owned land across the borough, involving volunteers and community groups when possible
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Monitor delivery of biodiversity enhancements within Roadside Nature Reserves in line with recommendations from the RNR monitoring programme	Leisure	Spring 2026	Review progress of agreed RNR enhancement works
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Continue to explore partnership funding opportunities to support tree planting projects and the successful establishment of trees borough wide	Leisure	December 2026	Review existing and potential funding opportunities. Identify potential planting opportunities where funding and resources allow Deliver planting where feasible by December 2026
Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Develop and progress the pollinator pledge	Leisure	December 2026	Refine draft Pollinator Pledge in consultation with relevant services Present finalised Pollinator Pledge to Members for approval December 2026

Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes	Work with Kent County Council (KCC) and delivery partners to promote and deliver group purchasing schemes that support residents to install solar PV and battery storage systems. Deliver a marketing campaign with KCC to target eligible households to participate in Switch Together Kent.	Housing	Ongoing	Renew Switch Together legal agreement by June 2026 Support delivery and promotion of Switch Together Kent during the 2026/27 scheme round
Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes	Undertake a review of temporary accommodation in Tonbridge High Street, including the improvements required to provide long-term homeless households with affordable and decent accommodation which meets required standards	Housing	2026/2027	Report to June 2026 Cabinet on the review including investment required to achieve recommended energy efficiency upgrades and/or replacement/disposal strategy
Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes	Kent and Medway Housing Strategy (Action SEH5). Kent Housing Group to work with partners to identify the measures needed to reduce overheating in new and existing homes, and to communicate the health risks of hot homes and actions households can take.	Housing	2026/2027	Participate in task and finish group on how to address excess heat in homes, looking at what measures and actions can be taken to keep our homes cool along with appropriate messaging to residents.
Reduce the carbon emissions of residential homes	Undertake project targeting poor condition and MEES non-compliance in mixed-use (commercial and domestic) buildings where the domestic premises is not self-contained	Housing	2026/2027	Data gathering to identify mixed use addresses and prioritise/target inspections. Inspection visits completed and incidence of shared access identified. Education and compliance - deliver and enable access to advice for private landlords and/or commence enforcement where necessary.
Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle	Expand food waste collection services within new flat developments to increase recycling rates and reduce residual waste	Street Scene	Ongoing	Identify new developments and confirm service requirements Install required infrastructure

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	Street Scene	Ongoing	Attendance at community spaces including supermarkets and schools - June 2026
Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy	Deliver Round 6 of the Green Business Grant Scheme to support local businesses in implementing carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures through capital investment, including solar PV, heat pumps, LED lighting and insulation	Economic Regen	March 2027	Grants awarded July 2026 Minimum of 5 carbon reduction/energy efficiency projects completed by March 2027 Publish case studies showcasing completed projects by March 2027
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment.	Work with KCC and local business to promote and signpost information, advice and grant opportunities supporting business carbon reduction	Economic Regen	Ongoing	Promote KCC low carbon support and advice to local organisations Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin, with at least 2 articles per annum
Work with partners in the community to engage the public and identify areas of collaboration for climate change action, adaptation, protection and enhancement of the environment	Build collaborative working and public engagement with the Climate Change Forum, identifying areas for joint Council and community climate and environment action	Executive	Ongoing	Support and attend community environmental events to promote climate change action Work with the Climate Change Forum on initiatives and activities to raise awareness and encourage wider participation in environmental action

Raise awareness of climate change, providing regular updates and information	Deliver targeted climate change communications, aligned with local service activity and priorities	Media & Comms	March 2027	Agree communications plan/approach by June 2026 Deliver targeted campaigns across services (e.g. waste, anti-idling) Promote key initiatives via council channels.
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Decarbonise heating system at Poult Wood Golf Centre, through replacement of end-of-life oil boilers with low-carbon heating technology using the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund grant from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by Salix	Central	March 2027	Complete installation and commissioning of heat pump
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Decarbonise heating system at Larkfield Leisure Centre through replacement of end-of-life gas boilers with low-carbon heating technology, using the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund grant from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, administered by Salix	Central	July 2026	Installation of air handling unit by June 2026 Complete installation and commissioning of heat pump by July 2026
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Decarbonise Gibson East through energy efficiency improvements and low-carbon technologies as part of the Council's rationalisation of Kings Hill office space	Central	August 2026	Complete installation and commissioning of heat pump by August 2026 Commissioning of solar panels by August 2026
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Provide carbon neutral for energy modular temporary accommodation units at Blue Bell Hill	Central	June 2026	Commence work on site - June 2026 Modular units built in factory - with inbuilt PV solar panels and heat pumps Dec 2026

Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Assess opportunities to maximise on-site renewable energy generation on Council-owned assets to support estate decarbonisation e.g. solar canopies	Central	March 2027	Complete feasibility assessment of additional solar panel installation, identifying potential sites, reviewing case studies, and exploring funding opportunities
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Review approaches and assess options for implementing low carbon building design principles for capital projects - new builds and refurbishments	Central	March 2027	Review low-carbon building standards adopted by public sector organisations by December 2026 Identify options for a proportionate TMBC approach to low-carbon building design by March 2027
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Review energy use and identify opportunities to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency across leisure facilities	Executive	September 2026	Complete energy review and report findings to Communities Environment Scrutiny Select Committee by September 2026
Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations	Increase reuse within Council operations as part of Gibson East office move to reduce waste and resource consumption	Central	October 2026	Audit existing furniture Identify opportunities for reuse/reallocation of furniture
Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients	Reduce energy consumption across Council operations through replacement of IT equipment with energy efficient devices	I.T.	June 2026	Replace 50 laptops with energy-efficient equivalents over the year, completing the replacement of all older inefficient models

<p>Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients</p>	<p>Improve efficiency and reduce carbon footprint through business process re-engineering, mobile solutions and digitisation across Council services</p>	<p>I.T.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Map current workflows and processes through SDS to identify opportunities Opportunities are then passed to the Solution Architect for re-engineering and then passed to IT Dev team for implementation Workflow projects for 2026/27 include - Events, Taxi Licencing and Garden Waste Review opportunities to incorporate environmental considerations within service redesign and workflow mapping processes by December 2026</p>
<p>Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations</p>	<p>Review opportunities to optimise IT network infrastructure following office space reduction at Gibson East, including switches, cabling, connectivity equipment, to reduce unnecessary energy use</p>	<p>I.T.</p>	<p>March 2027</p>	<p>Audit existing network infrastructure by June 2026 Reconfigure or remove infrastructure by August 2026 Identify redundant equipment by March 2027</p>

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COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE – UPCOMING MATTERS

2026-27

C=Council; CAB = Cabinet; 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/following the meeting and this is indicated in the column Cab. Member DN Y/N.

All matters are subject to change. ASDP = Annual Service Delivery Plan

MEETING DATE	DECISION (TITLE)	DESCRIPTION	C/CAB/ DEL/INFO	KD/NKD	CAB MEMBER DN Y/N	PART 1 OR 2	OFFICER IN PERSON ATTENDANCE Y/N
15 July 2026	Identify opportunities to Invest in Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground for residents and visitors.	ASDP Priority 4.1					
	Explore the opportunities to make greater use of the operational expertise, capacity and track record of the TM Leisure Trust aligned to the delivery of Council Leisure facilities.	ASDP Priority 4.8 Report to set out improvement opportunities					
	Tree Safety Policy						
	Water Safety Policy						

	Holly Hill Management Plan		CAB	NKD	Y		
	Domestic Abuse HA Accreditation – Bronze award	ADSP Priority 16.1	CAB				
	White Ribbon Action Plan – Update	ADSP Priority 16.2	CAB				
	Annual Carbon Audit	Climate Change Officer					
	Kent Resource Partnership Strategy		INFO				
	Update on Tonbridge Farm All-weather pitch		INFO				
	Work Programme	Standing item	Info				

MEETING DATE	DECISION (TITLE)	DESCRIPTION	C/CAB/ DEL/INFO	KD/NKD	CAB MEMBER DN Y/N	PART 1 OR 2	OFFICER IN PERSON ATTENDANCE Y/N
4 November 2026	Charging developers for new bin provision	ASDP Priority 1.3	CAB				
	Matters Arising from Services in between cycles: To be confirmed						
	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 15

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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