

Cabinet Member Briefing Note
Progress on Climate Change Actions

Cllr Robin Betts

January 2023

Interim Update: What has been achieved so far

1. This note provides a snapshot of TMBC’s progress on tackling greenhouse gas emissions. The table below summarises key measures that have reduced emissions from our owned estate and operations, and supported renewable energy and efficiency investments by businesses, private and social housing.
2. Community engagement and support for residents has also continued, including through a range of media activities from encouraging the switch to paperless council tax bills to information on green grants and providing household energy efficiency tips. In addition, we have been working with schools to tackle poor air quality, with sensors and signs now installed at pilot schools and anti-idling activities taking place in January. The next Climate Change Forum will take place in January.
3. To support the natural environment, we have already planted 1,000 new trees and are currently planting the additional match-funded thousand trees, enhancing green spaces, habitats and carbon sequestration capacity for the coming decades.
4. The full list of current measures to tackle climate change is available in the Climate Change Action Plan at <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/downloads/download/439/climate-change-action-plans>. A progress report for 2022-23 and new measures for 2023-24 will be produced after April when data for the current financial year is available.

Table of key renewable energy and efficiency actions delivered to date

	What we’ve done	Impact	What next?
<i>Leisure Trust – energy</i>	Installation of approximately 190 solar PV panels at the Larkfield Leisure Centre (scheduled to begin January).	The installation will generate an estimated 90,500kWh/ year and reduce emissions by 19tCO ₂ per year.	Investigation of further decarbonisation measures at Leisure Trust operated sites is underway.
<i>Electric vehicle charging points</i>	Installation of 28 rapid or fast electric vehicle (EV) charging points in 5 car parks has been completed. The final 3 charging bays in the Gibson Buildings visitor car park should be completed soon (January).	In the three months September – November 2022 a total of 12,073 kWh were charged across the five sites. Sovereign Way North (Tonbridge) was the most frequently used:	Following successful completion, Phase 2 will install up to 100 additional EV chargers.

Annex 1: Climate change and biodiversity report

	What we've done	Impact	What next?
Green business grants		248 times during the three-month period.	
	The Green Business Grant Scheme supports T&M businesses in the low carbon sector, and businesses across sectors to lower their carbon footprint. There was a total funding pot of £150,000 for first two rounds of the scheme.	The funding pot has been allocated to 31 projects across the borough, supporting measures such as switching to LED lighting, the installation of solar panels, funding new equipment for a local zero waste shop, installation of heat pump heating, and tree planting. 17 of these projects are complete. The remaining projects have until April 2023 to complete.	Using UK Shared Prosperity Funding (which has now been secured), we will be launching another couple of rounds of the Green Business Grant Scheme in 2023.
Social Housing	The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Demonstrator project delivered deep retrofit measures to 110 homes across TMBC and Fenland District Council. Deep retrofit includes technically challenging and costly measures, such as external wall insulation in addition to efficiency measures such as loft insulation. The project was joint funded by BEIS and Clarion Housing Group.	The homes started with an EPC rating of E or D, and were to achieve a minimum of C and a reduced space heating demand of 50kWh/m ² per year. Overall emissions saving estimated of up to 2.5 tonnes of carbon and energy bill costs of £500 per household per year.	The retrofit works started through the Demonstrator project are continuing across an additional 450 properties across both Districts.
	Solar Together is a group buying scheme to allow residents to group together to purchase solar panels at a cheaper rate.	Round 2 has seen 104 panels installed on 91 homes to date (delivery for this round is ongoing).	
Energy efficiency at home	TMBC participated with other Councils in the KCC Share the Warmth campaign, designed by their Behavioural Insights consultants. The campaign offered 5 zero/ very low cost energy efficiency tips for residents.	Evaluation and assessment of the campaign is taking place in January/ February.	