

Climate Change Action Plan 2022/23

YEAR THREE PROGRESS REPORT

Key		
Completed	Ongoing	Not Started / Stalled

Theme	Actions	Timescale	Progress Monitoring	Update
Policy and engagement Recognise climate change as a corporate commitment for the council	Ensure Climate Change is a key priority for the Council in the revised Corporate Plan, including measures to monitor and publish carbon data, lower carbon emissions at the Council and monitor and publish borough wide carbon emissions data.	September 2022	Ongoing	The Council has held a consultation on its revised Corporate Plan. Measures to monitor, lower and publish progress on carbon emissions are in place.
	Investigate carbon literacy training for TMBC staff and members.	Mar-23	Completed	Carbon Literacy training has taken place for two key staff and the roll-out to all staff has been investigated. Plans are in place for staff and member training during 2023-24.

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Work with partners to address climate change issues, lower carbon and adapt to the effects of climate change	Work with KCC and attend Climate Change Network (CCN) meetings to ensure collaboration and help meet targets in the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Regular engagement with KCC Climate Change Network continues, with TMBC's Climate Change Officer participating in a range of sub-groups to share case studies, best practice examples, and possible areas for collaboration.
	Continue to feed into the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy via the Climate Change Network.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Delivery and reporting against the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES) is ongoing, including through the Climate Change Network, to keep on track for carbon neutral and net zero targets.
	Continue to work with the Tonbridge and Malling Climate Change Forum to galvanise support for climate change initiatives and promote the climate change agenda.	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Climate Change Forum has developed plans to promote climate and environmental action. Minutes of meetings are published on the TMBC website.
Monitor Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's carbon emissions.	Complete the 2020/2021 carbon audit.	July – September 2022	Completed	The 2020/21 carbon audit was completed by the deadline. A quality assurance process then took place over the Winter/Spring. To be published on website by Autumn 2023.
	Complete the 2021/2022 carbon audit.	July – September 2022	Completed	The 2021/22 carbon audit was completed by the deadline. A quality assurance process then took place over the Winter/Spring. To be published on website by Autumn 2023.

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	Produce a TMBC carbon emissions pathway report.	July – September 2022	Ongoing	An indicative carbon emissions reductions pathway was produced by the deadline. A more detailed pathway will be developed during 2023/24.
	Determine hierarchy of action plan actions, based upon emissions reduction impact.	July – September 2022	Ongoing	The council has determined significant sources of emissions to be prioritised for reductions, and is tackling emissions from our own estate. The hierarchy of actions will be reviewed in light of progress and new data.
Monitor Tonbridge and Malling carbon emissions.	Review Borough wide emissions data.	July – September 2022	Completed	Borough wide emissions data have been included in TMBC KPI data for ongoing monitoring.
Sustainable Development	Continue to pursue planning policies in the Council’s emerging Local Plan that will facilitate the delivery of sustainable development through location, orientation, and design, and through the integration of measures such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), water efficiency and habitat creation.	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Planning Policy Team has made good progress in the drafting of the Local Plan to facilitate future sustainable development. In this regard, the Regulation 18 draft Plan and public consultation has recently been completed as well as the commissioning of various pieces of evidence to support the Local Plan.

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	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 Government has adopted the Future Homes and Building Standards to reduce CO2 emissions and ensure new homes are “zero carbon ready”. The efficiency levels now required encourage the installation of zero-carbon technology and levels of energy efficiency exceed what we may justify under the current Development Plan. Thus, no conditions or informatives are recommended in relation to the incorporation of zero carbon technologies.
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 2022	Ongoing	Progression of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Strategy is aligned to the progression of the Local Plan. Limited activity has taken place over the past year as a spatial strategy for the Local Plan had not been defined at regulation 18 stage.
Improve the environmental standards of licensed taxis operating in the borough.	Start the taxi licensing policy renewal process.	March 2022	Ongoing	The taxi policy is due to go to the Licensing & Appeals committee on 5th July. Following this, the policy will go out on a minimum 6 weeks consultation for the trade and interested parties to make comments.
	Provide wider information regarding taxi EV charging provision.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Until TMBC provide more EV charging facilities, we have nothing to communicate to the trade.

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	Continue engagement with KCC through the CCN regarding future taxi licencing.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Continue engagement through attending KCC meetings and take any relevant information back to the trade.
ULEV Provide electric charging points across the borough.	Progress the phase 2 programme of EV chargers in selected car parks as soon as practicably possible. Phase 2 will allow potentially up to 106 chargers across other council owned car parks.	March 2023	Ongoing	Phase 1 has installed 28 chargers that are being used by residents and visitors to the Borough. The installation of the final Rapid Chargers is outstanding for Phase 1. We have progressed to Phase 2, which began on 1st May 2023.
Decarbonise TMBC vehicle fleet.	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	The electric vehicle is being used regularly by the Parking Enforcement team and its usage is prioritised over conventional fuel vehicles.
Air Quality Continue the full implementation of a borough wide Anti-idling Campaign, to reduce emissions from idling engines.	Continue the anti-idling and school area monitoring project work, following the successful DEFRA grant for new sensors and signs.	March 2023	Ongoing	Sensors for the project were installed at the five participating schools in November 2022. Interaction with schools and erection of anti-idling signage began in February 2023 and is ongoing.

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Habitats & Biodiversity Strengthen local protection and enhance protection of species, habitats and ecosystems	Continue to monitor existing roadside nature reserves and add further if identified and brought forwards.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Roadside Nature Reserves have been established around the Borough, with potential to consider additional areas.
	Proceed with Reed Bed creation at Haysden Country Park.	March 2023	Not Started / Stalled	This item stalled due to budgetary pressures but is planned to progress in the coming year.
	Proceed with Holly Hill hedgerow creation.	March 2023	Not Started / Stalled	This item stalled due to budgetary pressures but is planned to progress in the coming year.
	Proceed with the planting of spring and summer bulbs across the borough.	March 2023	Not Started / Stalled	This item stalled due to budgetary pressures but is planned to progress in the coming year.
	Coppicing at Taddington Valley Woodland.	Ongoing	Not Started / Stalled	This item stalled due to budgetary pressures but is planned to progress in the coming year.
	Plant TMBC match funded 1000 trees/whips on TMBC land.	October 2022 – March 2023	Completed	Planting has been completed across the Borough.

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	Continue with the lakeside revetment works in liaison with volunteers.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Works were started in summer 2022 and are due to be completed as part of Tonbridge School's Just Giving (volunteer) Day in June 2023.
Housing & Energy Conservation 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	Completed	The Council undertook targeted promotion of the second round of Solar Together targeting promotion resulting in 840 registrations. 165 TMBC registrants accepted their Solar Together proposal. 123 PV installations has taken place across the TMBC area as of 19 April 2023. Installations will continue across Kent until the end of April 2023. The Council is currently participating in the third round of Solar Together undertaking further targeted promotions of the scheme.
The Council is working in partnership with Fenland District Council, LB Merton and Clarion Housing Group having successfully obtained £5.2m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator Wave 1 funding.	Deliver retrofit energy efficiency measures to up to 200 TMBC area Clarion homes focussing on hard-to-treat Wimpey No Fines. Clarion to provide £4.5m match funding across three local authority areas in the Wave 1 scheme.	March 2023	Completed	The Council has continued to work in partnership with Fenland District Council and Clarion Housing Group on Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1, the partnership now includes LB Merton. Retrofit energy efficiency measures have been delivered to further Wimpey No Fines constructed properties across the borough including Tonbridge, Hadlow and Snodland. 181 homes have been retrofitted with energy efficiency measures in Wave 1.

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<p>TMBC area has been allocated £1.227m Sustainable Warmth Funding to improve energy efficiency in low income/low energy efficient homes.</p>	<p>We will seek to signpost eligible households to the Sustainable Warmth scheme managing agents.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Council has signposted eligible households to the Sustainable Warmth scheme managing agent undertaking a scheme mailing to targeted eligible low energy efficient households, social media and a communications campaign via KM including radio advert.</p> <p>The managing agent qualified 47 household applications as eligible to receive energy efficiency measures under the Sustainable Warmth scheme which includes 'on gas' homes under Local Authority Delivery 3 stream and 'off gas' homes under the Home Upgrade Grant. Retrofit energy efficiency has been installed in 40 homes with scheme delivery continuing to 31 March 2023. The Sustainable Warmth Scheme has now closed.</p>
<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>	<p>Financial assistance is available to assist circa 10 low-income vulnerable to cold households to access affordable warmth in the home while also encouraging these households to take action to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>TMBC will signpost households for advice on how to reduce energy usage in the home for example Simple Energy Advice website.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>8 low income vulnerable to cold households received financial assistance to access affordable warmth in the home.</p> <p>TMBC website signposted households for advice on how to reduce energy usage in the home.</p>

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	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.	Ongoing	Ongoing	TMBC has standing aspiration that should we procure further council owned TA we will undertake a feasibility study to identify what is needed to improve its energy efficiency. TMBC has not procured further local authority temporary accommodation in 2022/2023, for example the Simple Energy Advice website.
Waste Minimisation & Recycling Encourage more people to reduce their waste and make it easier for residents to recycle.	Continue with Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) re-use campaigns.	Summer 2022	Ongoing	The partnership has continued, along with a number of campaigns. For example, partnership with Kent Football Association for a green charter; reducing contamination & improving reuse/recycling; and Allington HWRC to have reuse facility provided in 2023/24.
	Progression of waste and recycling contract, rolling out to flats / bin stores.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Planned roll out of dry recycling to flats complete. Good practice shared in presentation by TMBC officers at national conference. A small number of properties with inadequate infrastructure remain on weekly refuse collections. Food waste collections to be trialled in a number of communal bin stores in late 2023 with a potential roll out in 2024/25 financial year.
	Development of KRP website and working with national partners such as WRAP and Recoup (plastic specific).	Ongoing	Ongoing	KRP website in development; video clips developed to show residents what happens to their recycling, garden waste, etc; worked with WRAP on best practice guidance for communications materials for recycling in flats.

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<p>Community & Business Engagement</p> <p>Support local businesses and encourage sustainable growth in the economy</p>	Aim to identify external funding to deliver future rounds of the green business grant scheme.	March 2023	Completed	UKSPF (along with some Business Rates Retention Pilot underspend) identified and secured to deliver two further rounds of the scheme, around £95,000 for the 2 rounds. Next round launches in mid-April 2023 with a further round scheduled for early 2024.
	Launch a further round of Local Shops and Parades Fund Scheme.	March 2023	Completed	<p>Launched in February 2023 and closed in early March 2023, followed by Grant Offer Letters in April.</p> <p>https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/news/article/86/shopfront-improvement-scheme-open-for-business</p> <p>Eligible works included carbon reduction initiatives for independent shops/food outlets.</p>
	Promote the climate change strategy and its objectives via the council's e-bulletin.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Regular items included in the monthly bulletin on environmental initiatives (mostly the green business grant scheme) and also an article promoting the Climate Change Strategy in January 2023. The bulletin goes out to around 900 business contacts.
	Work with KCC to promote and support the Lower Carbon Across the South East initiative.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Work closely with KCC on ensuring that awareness is raised through our Green Business Grant Scheme. As per previous rounds, applicants to the GBGS are asked about signing up for information related to wider support and information re. carbon reduction. Although LoCASE comes to an end in April 2023, other environmental initiatives at the county level are ongoing.

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Raise awareness of climate change, providing regular updates and information.	Refresh the climate change webpage to provide a better resource for promoting climate change work, and information to the public.	Ongoing	Completed	A new climate change section of the website was launched in September 2022. This focused on borough specific information. The most popular section of the site was 7 actions to tackle climate change. This was backed up with a high page dwell time.
	Seek to develop and provide more case studies to evidence and promote positive climate change work and opportunities in the borough.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Positive case studies have been made available through progress on action plan items, such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator.
	Provide a climate change progress report / news release.	March 2023	Ongoing	Updates on climate change progress have been provided to committees, through website updates and the Climate Change Forum.
TMBC Estate Reduce the environmental impact of the council's activities, increasing the sustainability of all our operations.	Complete construction of Leybourne Lakes facility which includes solar panels and lake source heat pumps.	Summer 2022	Completed	The construction and installation of renewable energy and efficiency measures, including a water source heat pump and solar panels, have been completed and in use since Summer 2022.
	Embark on the wider decarbonisation of TMBC owned estate, with an initial focus of emissions intensive sites.	2020 -2030	Ongoing	This action is progressing through the identification of key sites and areas of emissions, and initial scoping of options for emissions reductions.

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	Procure a carbon descent plan for Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool, bringing forward options to members.	March 2024	Completed	Carbon Descent plans for Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming were completed. The installation of LED lighting and solar panels at Tonbridge Swimming Pool were approved. In February 2023 Members also agreed that the option of heat pumps at both sites should be investigated through commissioning scoping and feasibility studies.
	Evaluate Solar PV options to reduce energy crisis impact and electricity emissions at Larkfield Leisure Centre.	Winter 2022	Completed	196 solar panels have been installed and are in operation on sports hall roof at Larkfield Leisure Centre (completed February 2023).
	Develop a digital post room using the councils new corporate document management system.	March 2023	Ongoing	A review of the Print Room has been completed. This action will be progressed following the conclusion of May local election printing.
Progress the digitisation of services and reduce the amount of paper both internally and being sent out to clients.	Look to review the TMBC device policy to be more efficient with the devices used e.g. power of devices and amount used.	May 2023	Ongoing	The device policy will be completed in draft by the end of May/June.
	Contribute towards the working arrangements officer study group.	December 2022	Completed	The Working Arrangements OSG has concluded and IT support for the shift to hybrid and remote working patterns has been delivered

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	Reduce the number of multifunctional printing devices across TMBC.	September 2022	Ongoing	MFD procurement is complete and all new MFDs are now in place reducing the amount from 12 device to 6. There will be a further reduction of 2 in 2 years' time once the office move is complete.
	Continue to contribute towards service efficiency through the digital strategy.	March 2023	Ongoing	2019-23 digital strategy now closed. New version presented to Cabinet April 23 to cover the next 4 years.
	Mobile working solutions and the digitisation of paper records and business processes involving printing (correspondence, surveys, inspections, interviews, records management, my TMBC app etc), to improve efficiency and reduce carbon footprint.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Mobile solution developed for Temporary Accommodation inspections now live. Business Process re-engineering continues across services. Revised workflows for Waste services signed off May 23 and passed to Development team to progress.