

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