

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

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