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Summary of the

Climate Change Action Plan

June 2021

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# Introduction

**What is Climate Change?**

Climate change means a shift in the earth’s weather patterns and average temperatures caused by increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are naturally occurring and support life on earth, however, over the last 150 years human activity has greatly contributed to increased levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Since the Industrial Revolution the balance of the carbon cycle has been changed due to human activity including burning huge amounts of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas. The extra carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere traps more of the sun’s heat leading to a rise in global temperatures. In the last 100 years, we have already experienced a 1 degree Celsius (°C) rise in average temperatures and scientists predict that the trend is set to continue at pace without considerable reductions in carbon emissions.

**Why do we all need to take action?**

In 2015, countries around the world signed the Paris Agreement (an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC) with the aim of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in order to keep global warming below 2 °C, while pursuing efforts to keep it below 1.5 °C.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a special report advising that global temperatures could increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels as soon as 2030 and would have a catastrophic impact on life on earth.  The IPCC report found that for global warming to be limited to 1.5 °C, "Global net human-caused emissions of CO2 would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050."

In a year that saw the end of the warmest decade ever recorded (2010-2019), global climate protests gained momentum calling for governments and decision makers to take more action. The UK government also became the first major global economy to set a net zero carbon target for 2050.

The scale of the challenge of achieving net zero by 2050 is immense and urgent action is needed in the short term if we stand a chance of avoiding a 1.5 °C rise. Everyone has a role to play, not just world leaders.

**The Impact of Climate Change**

Globally we are already experiencing the effects of climate change such as warmer temperatures, increased rainfall and flooding and an increase in storm events. More frequent and severe extreme weather are also predicted for the future.

**Climate Emergency Declaration**

In April 2019, the council declared a Climate Change Emergency and committed to establishing a clear action plan for Medway to deal with climate change, setting out an achievable and clear timeline.

**Evidence Base**

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes an annual report of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area. Data for 2018 (the most recent national dataset available at the time of writing this plan) shows that total emissions from the Medway area were 871.8kt CO2. Approximately a quarter of Medway’s direct emissions come from non-domestic buildings such as offices, shops, universities, and schools. Use of electricity is the biggest contributor to these emissions (44%). 40% of Medway’s emissions come from domestic energy consumption. Transport is the next highest contributor at 35% of the overall emissions.

We commissioned a technical study to help us understand the Council’s current carbon footprint and options for reducing emissions by 2050. The scope of the study includes emissions for which the Council is directly responsible:

* Direct emissions (Scope 1 and 2) from our estate and operations including gas heating, fugitive emissions, emissions from our small fleet vehicles and Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV’s), electricity for council owned buildings and street lighting. It does not include Council owned housing except for energy supplied to communal areas and sheltered housing.
* Indirect emissions (Scope 3) staff business travel and water.

Areas of indirect control for example emissions from Local Authority Schools, staff commuting and contracted out services, such as school transport and waste disposal have not been included.

We have chosen the financial year April 2018-March 2019 as the baseline year for measuring future progress, as this is the year immediately prior to the Council declaring a Climate Emergency.

The main sources of emissions are our operational buildings (heating and electricity) which account for 58% of total emissions, street lighting at 23% and emissions from Council fleet vehicles at 11%.

It is important to note that in 2018/19, the Council’s carbon footprint represents just 1.4% of the total direct emissions in the Medway area, at 12,105 tCO2e. While we recognise that we have a pivotal role to play in providing local leadership, this shows the level of effort and commitment required, from as wide a range of people as possible including staff, residents, businesses, schools, local groups, suppliers and visitors, to respond to the climate emergency.

The study uses the [science-based target approach](https://sciencebasedtargets.org/how-it-works) to reducing emissions at a rate that is in line with keeping global temperature rises below 1.5°C. This means that emissions will be halved every ten years as opposed to reducing emissions by a fixed amount every year. It sets the first carbon budget accounting period to 2027 and thereafter recommends five-year intervals in line with the UK government carbon budgets.

The recommended first carbon budget allowance for the period 2020-2027 is 57,631 tCO2e. This budget allocation will be our target against which we will monitor progress.

The study sets out a series of possible interventions to reduce the Council’s emissions by 95% by 2050 such as energy efficiency measures within Council buildings, installation of Solar PV, LED lighting (in corporate buildings, carparks and housing stock) and an investment in a River Source Heat Network. Detailed work is needed to finalise the budget needs, and this will be part of the relevant actions in this plan.

**Our Approach**

Our response to the climate emergency aligns with the [Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy](https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/112401/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf) (KMELES), adopted by Medway’s Cabinet in January 2021. The objective of the KMELES is to outline a joint Kent and Medway approach to achieving a reduction in carbon emissions, improvements in air quality, reduction in fuel poverty and delivery of a clean energy supply. The Strategy sets an agreed Kent and Medway target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Significant action is required in the next ten years to achieve this target.

Adopting the Strategy serves to not only acknowledge its relevance in setting out a consistent approach to net zero emissions but also realises the significance of working in partnership at scale.  It offers an opportunity to pool the resources and expertise required to address the climate emergency, which Medway Council has committed to do.

The intention of this Action Plan is to recognise the climate emergency and the role of the Council, along with our partners, in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.  To reach this target significant joined up action is needed in the next 10 years.

The Action Plan aligns with the Kent and Medway approach by applying the same ten high level priorities as set out in the KMELES.

1. Emission Reduction Pathways to 2050
2. Public Sector Decision Making
3. Planning and Development
4. Climate Emergency Investment Fund
5. Building Retrofit Programme
6. Transport, travel and digital connectivity
7. Renewable Energy Generation
8. Green Infrastructure
9. Supporting Low Carbon Business

10.Communications

We have further identified an 11th action – Climate Adaptation and Resilience - which we feel is important to include in our planning.

The full action plan explores each of the priority areas; identifying challenges and opportunities, progress made and proposed actions for the immediate, short term (2023), medium term (2027) and long term (2030).  Actions under each priority area are split into those that we can have a direct impact on such as our fleet and those that we can influence and work with our partners on, such as universities and colleges.

The actions in the plan focus on the following objectives:

* reducing/eliminating our carbon emissions through efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.
* supporting others in reducing/eliminating their carbon emissions
* promoting climate resilience

**The Carbon Hierarchy**

A carbon hierarchy is a preferred order for implementing measures to achieve net zero carbon.

Reducing - using energy efficiency measures to reduce the demand for energy such as LED lighting.

Eliminating – using energy from renewable sources that does not produce any carbon emissions such as solar PV systems.

Removal – using carbon offsetting to balance the remaining emissions, such as planting trees. This is generally seen as the last step in a carbon management strategy. Offsets are often purchased after all other ways to reduce carbon emissions have been exhausted.

**Monitoring and Reporting**

We have established an Officer Steering group, made up of key officers across the Council, to oversee the development of the cross-cutting action plan. Sub working groups will be set up for each of the priority areas to progress the immediate actions.

We will monitor and report on our progress twice a year to Cabinet; once to provide an update on our progress against the action plan and a separate update against our carbon baseline to ensure sufficient progress is being made or to identify where greater focus is required to keep us on track.

While the action plan currently contains actions up to 2030, it is intended to be a live document, with new activities and programmes of work added annually. We will review it to include new and refined actions as we build on our knowledge, new opportunities and national policy arise (particularly as a result of COP26), funding becomes available and as we build on our engagement programme.

We will continue to report on progress to the cross party-political Member Advisory Board on a quarterly basis. We encourage our communities and stakeholders to view the proceedings via our [website](https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?XXR=0&Year=2020&CId=539&MD=ielistmeetings) or in person.

We will provide further updates throughout the year to communicate how we are tackling climate change. These updates will be shared through social media channels, the climate change hub on our website, an e-newsletter and Medway Matters.

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# Priority Area 1 Emission Reduction Pathways to 2050

**1.1** Ensure that the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (adopted in January 2021) is implemented and continue to engage with KCC and other Kent districts on joint opportunities to achieve net zero carbon targets. **(Do It Now)**

**1.2** Develop a comprehensive energy monitoring and targeting programme to understand the council's current carbon/energy performance and to map potential pathway(s) against set budget periods for the Council to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050:

* Form a 'Carbon Reporting Working Group' that will ensure early engagement, joint briefing, and cooperation across departments to achieve efficiencies and save time when reporting on carbon emissions **(Do It Now)**
* Calculate carbon emissions from Council estate and operations and consider how these can be incorporated into a future carbon reduction pathway **(Do It Now)**
* Identify priority actions, and finalise budget needs, to reduce consumption-based emissions from Council estate and operations **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to refine data year on year for reporting efficiency **(Do It Now)**
* Centralise council vehicle mileage data collection **(Do It Now)**
* Roll out the use of fuel cards where appropriate and collect data in litres of fuel as opposed to miles **(Do It Now)**
* Report annual carbon emissions **(Do It Now)**
* Develop a re-baselining policy and an ‘Assurance and Verification’ policy in line with Government Guidance **(Do It Now)**
* Set out alternative population growth projections using information sources (such as the Authority Monitoring Report, the Local Housing Needs Assessment, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Population Heath Management) to better assess the challenges from climate change and impact on service requirements **(Do It Now)**

**1.3** Undertake an assessment of Scope 3 emissions and use this to inform further actions and projects to reduce emissions more widely across Medway based on area carbon budget:

* Undertake an assessment of Scope 3 emissions **(Short Term)**
* Map the areas of influence the Council has across Medway, review policies to align with the climate emergency and drive down carbon emissions **(Short Term)**
* Engage with Local Partnerships on the development of an LGA guidance document for reporting on supply chain emissions associated with social care provision **(Do It Now)**

**1.4** Develop a Climate Change Scorecard for Medway. **(Short Term)**

**1.5** Review outcomes from Carbon-Pathway (C-PATH) cloud-based resource project to identify key performance indicators. **(Short Term)**

# Priority Area 2 Public Sector Decision Making

**2.1** Ensure that climate change is incorporated and embedded into the refreshed Council Plan and all other relevant council policies, strategies, plans and contracts:

* Climate Change is included in the refreshed Council Plan as a Council Value (and will be included in internal service plans) to ensure action is embedded into everything we do. Named project leads will be responsible for the delivery of individual actions **(Do It Now)**
* Include an obligation to report on the impact of change on carbon emissions in Council decision reports. Consider opportunities to increase the effectiveness of accounting for the impact. Also consider including wider environmental impacts in decision reports **(Do It Now)**
* Investigate formal accreditation to BSI ISO14001 - Adaptation to Climate Change **(Short Term)**
* Consider mapping actions against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to identify gaps and areas for improvement **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to maintain minimum levels of waste to landfill, and promote through social media **(Do it now)**
* Explore innovative construction methods and materials used in the delivery of the [Housing Infrastructure Fund](https://www.medway.gov.uk/futurehoo) (HIF) Road scheme to find low carbon and lower cost options. This could include using materials with an optimum design life and less embodied carbon, recycled materials, or sourcing materials nearer to the site and reusing materials on site to minimise transportation movements **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to recycle road material and explore other options for its reuse **(Do It Now)**
* Support partners in the development of a carbon calculator to include CO2 emissions and increase the recycled content in the materials used on the Highway Infrastructure Contract. Medway is a trial site in the project **(Do It Now)**
* Develop a Smart City Strategy **(Do It Now)**

**2.2** Review Medway Procurement Policies to ensure positive support for third party emission disclosure and reduction and to identify environmental impacts on future projects:

* Review relevant waste disposal contracts as they are retendered **(Do It Now)**
* Consider the feasibility of applying a scoring mechanism that favours emission reduction **(Do It Now)**
* Include a carbon reduction statement within tender documents provided to suppliers to ensure they prioritise emission reductions, sustainability and environmental considerations within their proposals and that suppliers provide a sustainability statement with all tenders **(Do It Now)**
* Tender documents already include a section on supplier commitment to reducing single use plastics. Review to make this more measurable **(Do It Now)**
* Introduce a social value policy **(Do It Now)**

**2.3** Ensure Climate Change is embedded within the Cultural Strategy and City of Culture Bid:

* Ensure climate change priorities/green outcomes are at the heart of our plans for 2025 **(Do It Now)**
* Review policies for air quality, transport, waste management and sustainability at events/festivals **(Short Term)**

**2.4** Ensure Climate Change is embedded within the Child Friendly City vision and action plan. **(Do It Now)**

**2.5** Ensure that the green ambition is at the heart of the COVID-19 recovery plans for Medway and consider how beneficial changes associated with the management of the pandemic may be solidified into lasting change:

* Create a "Back to Better" Plan. The Head of Business Change has reviewed all COVID-19 recovery plans and developed a "key themes" document to pull the various "Back to Better" workstreams together. The priority themes identified are: Remote & Agile Working, Remote Meetings with External Stakeholders, External Processes, Internal Processes, Cashless, External Communications. Many of these workstreams address the Climate Change objectives (including reduced travel and reduction in printing & paper) and are listed as separate actions within this action plan **(Do It Now)**

**2.6** Identify training needs for staff, councillors and other groups on the climate emergency and the impact of decisions on carbon emissions. Provide training and identify opportunities to add carbon management messages to existing training. Consider base level training for all employees and more targeted training for decision makers:

* Roll out of climate change/carbon literacy training for staff **(Short Term)**
* Medway Adult Education to embed carbon management into lifelong learning programmes and design bespoke training for staff, alongside Workforce Development **(Short Term)**

**2.7** Continue to support the reduction of single use plastic within our communities:

* Promote the concept of Refill to reduce the use of single use plastics. Offer residents and businesses access to water refill stations to help tackle single use packaging **(Do It Now)**
* Set up a working group and carry out an audit of avoidable single use plastic across Council owned buildings. Develop a timeline to work towards all council buildings being single use plastic free and all other sites, including schools and council events **(Short Term)**
* Co-ordinated clean-up programme of marine plastic pollution **(Do It Now)**

**2.8** Explore opportunities to join the Green Creative programme to ensure that we act to support climate change and environmental sustainability across our culture, libraries, and events programmes. **(Do It Now)**

**2.9** Provide work placement and internship opportunities to support the development and delivery of the climate change action plan. **(Do It Now)**

**2.10** Address sustainability issues associated with food production, waste, and procurement within the newly formed Medway Food Partnership. **(Short Term)**

# Priority Area 3 Planning and Development

**3.1** Plan-making and development management to fully support the transition to a low-carbon future in a changing climate:

* Prepare draft planning policy as part of the Regulation 19 Draft Plan for statutory public consultation in 2021, and ongoing negotiation through the development management process **(Do It Now)**
* Shape places to help secure radical cuts in carbon emissions. This requires the location and layout of new development to be planned to deliver the highest viable energy efficiency, reduce the need o travel, and secure the highest possible share of trips made by sustainable travel **(Do It Now)**
* Actively support and help to drive the delivery of renewable and low-carbon energy generation and grid infrastructure **(Short Term)**
* Shape places and secure new development to minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to impacts from climate change, in ways consistent with cutting carbon emissions **(Short Term)**
* Ensure that there are real opportunities to encourage community-led initiatives, such as the promotion of decentralised renewable energy use or securing land for local food sourcing **(Medium Term)**
* Promote opportunities for sustainable transport use and local transport solutions **(Short Term)**
* Draft planning policy will address design, heat opportunities, Carbon Fund, community led initiatives, waste hierarchy, road user hierarchy and street design, and parking **(Short Term)**
* Ensure that major developments include sustainable drainage systems **(Do It Now)**
* Finalise Hoo Development Framework - a strategic masterplan - setting out key principles for sustainable growth **(Short Term)**
* Complete an Environmental Impact Assessment for the [HIF](https://www.medway.gov.uk/futurehoo) Road and Rail schemes **(Short Term)**
* Implement Surface Water Management Plan for Hoo which looks at proposed growth areas in the context of water management **(Short Term)**

**3.2** Ensure that relevant planning policies and guidance are reviewed and updated as required. **(Short Term)**

# Priority Area 4 Climate Emergency Funding

**4.1** Seek funding opportunities which will support emissions reductions across Medway and deliver actions in the Climate Change action plan. **(Do It Now)**

**4.2** Submit resourcing proposal for consideration ahead of budget setting for 2022/23. **(Do It Now)**

**4.3** Establish a robust financial strategy for delivering climate change work. **(Do It Now)**

**4.4** Work in partnership to evaluate options for a carbon offset fund and/or permanent crowdfunding space to support projects in the action plan. **(Short Term)**

**4.5** Work in partnership to develop a common carbon metric for calculating the carbon offset value of nature-based offsetting. **(Do It Now)**

# Priority Area 5 Building Retrofit Programme

**5.1** Regulate private landlords to ensure all rented homes in Medway comply with government Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards:

* Deal with any complaints received regarding properties being marketed as F rated under the government’s Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards **(Do It Now)**

**5.2** Improve the way the Council communicates about discount and energy grant schemes available to businesses and residents including those who are in fuel poverty, on a low income and are vulnerable to living in a cold home due to age/health conditions:

* Identify and explore initiatives to provide energy efficiencies measures to private homes in Medway **(Do It Now)**
* All schemes which are promoted by the council will be reviewed for legitimacy by the Trading Standards department before proceeding **(Do It Now)**
* Medway Adult Education to run courses for people to make their own homes more energy efficient, such as green DIY and retrofitting **(Short)**

**5.3** Identify and deliver priority actions for key buildings via the Re:fit Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Programme in a phased programme:

* Phase 1 **(Short Term)**
* Introduction of Building Management Systems - Heating Controls **(Short Term)**
* Control Optimisation - deploy Integrative Controls Strategy sensors to monitor energy usage in Council buildings and the optimisation of spaces **(Short Term)**
* Energy efficient appliances **(Short Term)**
* LED Lighting Corporate, LED Conversion for all those Corporate sites not captured in Phase 1 Re:fit **(Short Term)**
* LED Lighting Housing, this is subject to surveys but would probably encompass communal areas and external LED **(Short term)**
* Complete next phase of low energy LED smart street lighting upgrade programme **(Short term)**
* Carry out a full condition survey of lighting in car parks to inform energy efficiency standards/requirements for LED replacement programme **(Do It Now)**
* Water use reduction and conservation will be looked at as part of Re:fit **(Short Term)**
* Roll-out the conversion of all suitable heating systems to low carbon heat pumps or equivalent to all the Estate **(Short Term)**
* Assess viability of installing solar PV on all council buildings/assets and corporate building car parks **(Short Term)**
* Undertake a carpark review to establish the possibility of installing solar PV, including solar canopies, as well as EV charging points - solar car ports - additional initiative **(Short Term)**
* Improvements to sheltered accommodation via Re:fit **(Medium Term)**
* Undertake a landfill review to establish the potential for solar PV **(Short Term)**

**5.4** Review council commercial waste management practices and identify opportunities for improvement to own property:

* Audit council waste management arrangements, all buildings **(Do It Now)**
* Audit council waste arisings, all buildings **(Do It Now)**
* Follow up on any recommendations for improvements **(Do It Now)**

**5.5** As part of the COVID-19 recovery process, review underutilised built assets and consider opportunities for property rationalisation to make energy efficiency savings. **(Short Term)**

**5.6** Ensure that energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies are a priority in the refit, or the building of any future builds used by the Council. **(Short to Medium Term)**

**5.7** Continue to engage with schools on how to improve their buildings/assets:

* School governors introduced to the Re:fit programme; continue to engage with schools when required **(Long Term)**

**5.8** Investigate ways in which to improve council owned housing stock and make it more energy efficient:

* Explore opportunities to deliver exemplar energy efficiency homes through the HRA **(Short Term)**
* Develop plans to ensure that all council housing stock meet the national and government targets for energy standards **(Long Term)**

# Priority Area 6 Transport, Travel and Digital Connectivity

**6.1** Complete feasibility/demand study for EV charging points in Medway and publish a ULEV strategy and delivery plan. Facilitate the installation of EV charging point infrastructure on council land and public highway to align with current and future demand, parking arrangements and budgets:

* Ensure Medway’s residents and businesses understand the options for and benefits of EV ownership, are aware of grants they can apply for, and where they can find charging points (**Long Term)**
* Set up a dedicated area on the Council website, including EV charging point survey to help identify demand, requested locations and other relevant items of feedback **(Do It Now)**
* Publish a five-year EV strategy and delivery plan, including detailed analysis to help inform the rollout of EV charging points across Medway, consistent with those installed across the Kent network **(Medium Term)**
* Work collaboratively with our public and private sector partners to identify key locations where charging points can be installed to facilitate the usage of EVs, including taxi and private hire operators **(Long Term)**
* Submit bid to OZEV for 34 Electric Vehicle charge points at strategic locations across Medway for installation in the Summer of 2021 **(Do It Now)**
* Review strategically located council owned sites for potential installation of rapid charging points for public use, including town centres, residential locations, and other destinations **(Long Term**)
* Ensure the future long-term sustainability of EV charging by integrating infrastructure into new development, as stipulated within Air Quality Planning Guidance **(Medium Term)**
* Review current parking standards policies/arrangements to ensure consideration is given to the successful management of EV parking bays **(Medium Term)**

**6.2** Continue to deliver bus infrastructure improvements, and explore opportunities to facilitate the use of ULEV on bus routes in Medway:

* Maintain productive relationships with local bus operators with a view to establishing a ‘Bus Improvement Plan’ and introduce data reporting to include fleet comparison and journey time information **(Do It Now)**
* Explore opportunities for phased uptake of ULEV on supported bus routes **(Short Term)**
* Work with local bus operators to develop a strategy that facilitates the introduction of electric buses in Medway, including the identification of funding opportunities at national level **(Short Term)**
* Explore opportunities to provide electric charging points for buses at the proposed new station at Hoo as part of the HIF project **(Do It Now)**

**6.3** Continue to develop sustainable transport schemes and plans and actively promote behavioural change through walking and cycling initiatives, linked to the delivery of effective infrastructure:

* Progress the development of new walking and cycling facilities via the Active Travel Fund investment **(Do It Now)**
* Support travel planning opportunities, covering workplace, schools, and other educational settings, securing developer funding where available **(Short Term)**
* Promote and facilitate walk and/or cycle to school initiatives, including local and national focus events **(Do It Now)**
* Engage with universities and colleges to identify and promote safe walking routes **(Do It Now)**
* Implement the [Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/5080/medway_rights_of_way_improvement_plan_2020_to_2030), to meet the objectives T2A-T2C **(Long Term)**
* Undertake a gap analysis to understand how accessible the river is. Twenty-one miles have no legal or public rights of way, and these are being mapped to develop an action plan for unlocking this route as and when it is possible **(Long Term)**
* Delivery of cycle paths and footpaths within the [HIF](https://www.medway.gov.uk/futurehoo) scheme where possible **(Medium to Long Term)**

**6.4** Continue the delivery of digital transformation projects to enable increased access to online services to reduce printing and the need for travel:

* Implement measures to print large documents over a certain page length in the most efficient way possible **(Do It Now)**
* Move to online access for Older Persons and Disabled, Medway Youth bus passes, and parking permits. Continue to create usable and accessible forms for projects as they arise **(Shot Term)**
* Provide virtual Road Safety lessons to KS1 & 2 children **(Do It Now)**
* Reduce the number of Multifunctional Devices (MFDs) at Gun Wharf to reflect the reduction in office-based staff who are now remote working **(Do It Now)**
* Implement a paperless solution for fostering panels **(Do It Now)**
* Implement a paperless solution for Quality Assurance & Safeguarding Statutory meetings **(Do It Now)**

**6.5** Tackle congestion hotspots through Variable Message Signs (VMS), traffic signal infrastructure and programming upgrades and smart cities initiatives:

* Improvements to the operation of traffic signal-controlled junctions and crossings through programming changes or upgraded equipment **(Do It Now)**

**6.6** Continue with our proactive and dedicated approach to improving air quality across Medway through the delivery of the [Air Quality Action Plan](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1982/medway_air_quality_action_plan_2015):

* Review and refresh current Air Quality Action Plan **(Short Term)**
* Development and Adoption of Air Quality Action Plan for Medway Four Elms Hill AQMA **(Short Term)**
* Develop and deliver an anti-idling campaign across Medway **(Do It Now)**
* Promote car sharing via Lift Share (including the Medway Council car share community group for staff) and investigate whether there are any barriers to staff using the scheme and how these can be overcome. **(Short Term)**
* Explore the feasibility and benefits of providing internal eco driving courses for staff **(Short Term)**
* Explore the feasibility and benefits of setting up a local fleet recognition scheme such as ECO Stars **(Do It Now)**
* Support local SMES to switch to ULEV via the Kent REVS scheme **(Do It Now)**
	1. Review the council’s current grey fleet (owned and leased) and replace with ULEV where feasible.
* Replace Council fleet vehicles (owned and leased) with electric by end of first carbon budget (2027) or where possible at next point of exchange (latest 2025) **(Short Term)**
* Ensure Medway Norse are contracted to report on both Waste Fleet and Driver Performance Indicators and to implement a year-on-year reduction in the carbon dioxide emissions per tonne of waste collected and household visited. This should be included in LATCO 2013 agreement **(Do It Now)**
* Initiate a pilot project to provide a pool of Electric Vehicles for Social Workers in Medway **(Do It Now)**

**6.8** Replace Refuse Collection Vehicle fleet at end of life (2023) and consider phased replacement with alternative fuel technology from 2030:

* Review potential emission reduction options for RCV fleet including impact on service design, available infrastructure and fuel type **(Long Term)**
* Medium and long term RCV fleet replacement strategy (non-fossil fuel) **(Medium to Long Term)**

**6.9** Enabled by the Back to Better programme and supported by the Corporate Management team, review the Council's staff home working policy, business travel mileage policy and essential car user policy/staff parking provision:

* Completion of review and adoption of revised essential car user policy which will address the current incompatibility with the Council’s climate change initiative **(Short Term)**
* Engage bus operators to establish whether they would offer travel discount for Council staff, both to and from work, and during work hours when travelling for work purposes **(Do It Now)**
* Explore possible improvements to the Gun Wharf shower, changing, and cycle facilities to promote improved active travel to work **(Short Term)**
* Review the current salary sacrifice scheme and ensure that this supports the council’s climate change aspirations **(Short Term)**
* Ensure Council ICT systems are set up for home use and distance learning **(Do It Now)**
* Promote the EV option which is available through the provider of the council’s private car lease scheme for staff **(Do It Now)**
* Continue telephone/video assessments and meetings where appropriate, visiting clients when a face-to-face assessment is required, for example, with complex cases, safeguarding, or Occupational Therapy **(Do It Now)**

**6.10** Carry out a regular staff travel survey to establish baseline data to help understand barriers to a shift towards more sustainable modes of travel, both commute and business travel:

* Explore funding options for the appointment of a Travel Plan Coordinator to oversee development of the Council’s Staff Travel Plan **(Short Term)**
* Establish a Travel Plan Working Group comprising of Council representatives from relevant departments, with meetings to be scheduled periodically **(Medium Term)**
* Conduct a biennial online staff Travel Plan survey to help inform aims, objectives and targets, including an action plan of supportive measures **(Medium Term)**
* Agree sign-off and publish survey results and Travel Plan via MedSpace and set a review date. Consider the use of Power BI in communication with the Council’s Business Intelligence Team **(Short Term)**
* Explore options to support more sustainable travel incentives including staff cycle hire schemes, showers, cycle storage and improve the way the Council communicates about existing incentives for staff, such as the ETC fare discount card for staff travel **(Long Term)**

**6.11** Refresh Medway's Local Transport Plan to further facilitate a dramatic shift in priorities to public transport and active travel and to reflect net zero carbon ambition, growth, emerging technologies and government legislations:

* Produce a timetable to refresh the Local Transport Plan **(Short Term)**
* Explore opportunities for differential charging rates for CPZ permits and season tickets based on vehicle emissions **(Short Term)**

**6.12** Carry out a taxi and private hire ULEV feasibility study to understand barriers and opportunities for electrification of fleet:

* Undertake an engagement survey with the trade on barriers to converting to ULEV **(Do It Now)**
* Once the Licensing Policy has been agreed (which will set the vision for the future on conversion to ULEV) a feasibility study will be undertaken on the Policy which will include looking at charging infrastructure and the impacts on the trade **(Medium Term)**

**6.13** Review transport provision policies with private transport sector, including school transport providers to incentivise and switch to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles. **(Short Term)**

**6.14** Improve the digital connectivity across Medway:

* Work with the private sector to attract investment in a Full Fibre Network (FFN) for Medway **(Short Term)**

**6.15** Introduce smart parking solutions to reduce usage of paper tickets and remove the requirement for cash collection and parking enforcement. **(Do It Now)**

# Priority Area 7 Renewable Energy Generation

**7. 1** Deliver a low-cost solar panel group buying programme for residents in Medway through Solar Together Kent. **(Do It Now)**

**7.2** Carry out a Heat Mapping and Master planning study to assess the feasibility of a heat district network within the areas of Hoo and Strood:

* Undertake feasibility study **(Do It Now)**
* Submit a bid for additional funding for a Techno Economic feasibility study (Phase II) **(Do It Now)**
* Detailed planning development phase (Phase III) **(Short Term)**

**7.3** Carry out a River Source heat district network study in Chatham, building on the 2019 Atkins Heat Mapping and Master Planning study (Phase I):

* Undertake a Techno-Economic Feasibility study (Phase II) **(Do It Now)**
* Submit a bid for additional funding for a Detailed Planning & Development study (Phase III, commercialisation) in parallel with a bid for the Green Heat Network Fund for CAPEX grant **(Short Term)**

**7.4** Explore the feasibility of alternative energy sources in Medway:

* Support opportunities for a joint Kent & Medway Renewable Energy (and storage) Opportunities Mapping study **(Short Term)**

**7.5** Explore the viability for larger scale renewable energy production within Medway:

* Explore the potential for larger scale solar PV generation through acquisition from a third party **(Long Term)**
* Land purchasing for solar and energy production **(Long Term)**
* Explore the feasibility of developing large scale renewable generation projects - River Heat Source **(Long Term)**
* Promote and support community energy projects by raising awareness of their existence with the wider community **(Do It Now)**
* Energy Centres to be considered alongside heat networks to maximise energy production opportunities **(Medium Term)**

**7.6** Ensure that all new technologies and ULEV options are considered when designing the new operations depot, Maidstone Road. **(Short Term)**

**7.7** Explore options to switch to a Green Energy Tariff. **(Do it now)**

**7.8** Explore the feasibility and benefits to the council of having a dedicated Energy Team:

* Requirement for stakeholder engagement, bidding for funding and commissioning feasibility studies for large scale renewables projects - to be delivered by Re:fit contractor and an Energy Data Monitoring and Verification officer. **(Short Term)**

# Priority Area 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure

**8. 1** Secure new community growing spaces:

* Secure a new garden/allotment space from which to deliver the Grow Your Own educational programme, community projects and activities **(Do It Now)**
* Review of current allotment holding process to make better use of existing allotments **(Do It Now)**
* Seek locations for expansion of allotment facilities **(Short Term)**
* Work with community partners, including housing, to develop more urban growing spaces, including edible trails and green walls, including educating residents how to design and cultivate **(Short Term)**
* Secure a new community tree nursery **(Short Term)**
* Secure green spaces for new developments within the new Local Plan **(Medium Term)**

**8.2** Increase tree canopy cover in Medway to support resilience to climate change and disease:

* Engage volunteers to carry out an annual tree canopy coverage survey **(Do It Now)**
* Develop a Tree Strategy and funded action plan, setting clear actions and targets **(Do It Now)**
* Sustain existing healthy tree stock (street trees, open spaces and woodlands) and ensure there is no net loss of Street or Open Space Trees within Medway **(Short Term)**
* Planting hedges along roads **(Medium Term)**
* Maximise the management of existing woodland estates, re-instate coppicing for biodiversity, timber, landscape and carbon storage **(Medium Term)**
* Through the Strategic Environmental Management Scheme connect Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) woodlands of the Hoo Peninsula from Upnor to Northward Hill, High Halstow **(Short Term)**
* Subject to viability and soundness testing embrace 20% target to Biodiversity Net Gain in Local Plan **(Short Term)**
* Embrace initiatives including woodland trust scheme for School Tree planting **(Medium Term)**
* Collaborate with partners to plant over 10 000 trees by the end of March 2021 and review options on submitting further funding bids to support the tree planting programme in the future **(Short Term)**
* Continue with the annual bulb and tree planting programme **(Do It Now)**

**8.3** Identify opportunities for natural solutions to climate change:

* Identify habitat areas within Medway for protection as carbon sinks and wildlife habitats. This should include both terrestrial and marine habitats **(Short Term)**
* Undertake a joint working project to repair historic flood defences of existing salt marsh islands **(Short Term)**

**8.4** Support the delivery of a Nature Recovery Network in collaboration with the Kent Nature Partnership:

* Participate in the Kent Nature Partnership working group on nature recovery and embed in green and blue infrastructure framework **(Medium Term)**

**8.5** Continue to increase the number of wildflower verges on council owned land:

* 10 new sites will be added to the planting programme for completion in 2020/21 **(Short Term)**

**8.6** Continue to support community volunteer groups (including Medway Urban Greenspaces forum) with maintenance and conservation of existing and new greenspaces and continue to monitor the improvements to biodiversity:

* Achieve volunteer hours of 14000 hours per annum **(Short Term)**

**8.7** Investigate the viability of producing Woodland Carbon Units (WCU) for others as well as meeting the Council’s own needs through tree planting, or whether the Council should purchase of WCU from others. **(Short Term)**

**8.8** To complete and deliver the Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework and ensure that developer contribution funds are secured for its delivery:

* Develop the Framework and capture the green and blue infrastructure projects in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan supporting the Local Plan **(Do It Now)**
* Consider contributions to green infrastructure projects in a revised Guide to Developer Contributions and Obligations **(Do It Now)**

**8.9** Ensure [HIF](https://www.medway.gov.uk/futurehoo) programme and other regeneration programmes include the creation of green open spaces providing benefits to both local community and wildlife:

* Embed green and blue infrastructure in the HOO Development Framework **(Short Term)**
* Explore opportunities to provide planting and screening to mitigate against the impact of noise and air pollution and improve the visual impact of the new road as part of the HIF **(Do It Now)**

**8.10** Establish a Strategic Environmental Management Scheme (SEMS) to develop a network of public open spaces (Phase II SEMS):

* Secure planning permission for Cockham Community Parkland **(Do It Now)**
* Design and deliver a green “living bridge” over the Peninsula Way to re-connect the communities and landscape and provide a safe walking and cycling route and encourage the movement of wildlife through an otherwise segregated landscape **(Medium Term)**
* Finalise Cumulative Ecological Impact Assessment **(Short Term)**
* Investigate how to capture the carbon savings which are being made through SEMS and apply carbon calculator equation to all Medway owned land **(Short Term)**

**8.11** Establish clear guidance on the use of pesticides and herbicides on council owned land:

* Continue with the 'Reduction Usage Plan' which has been trialled with Norse and engage with other council contractors on the implementation of the plan **(Do It Now)**

**8.12** Make soil improver made from composting food and green waste available to Medway residents:

* Investigate when new contract is procured in September 2025 **(Medium Term)**

# Priority Area 9 Supporting Low Carbon Business

**9.1** Engage and work with local businesses within Medway to work towards the net zero carbon target:

* Engage with local business owners through the Medway for Business network and residential homes/day care to develop awareness of the climate change action plan **(Do It Now)**
* Work with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and the Kent and Medway Growth Hub to embed net zero carbon understanding in start-up business support, and other business training provided on Medway’s behalf **(Do It Now)**
* Work with the Skills and Employability Plan business partners to develop awareness of the net zero carbon ambition and identify low carbon employment opportunities/address skills shortages **(Medium Term)**
* Develop and promote initiatives to encourage businesses to recycle commercial waste. Signpost businesses to Low Carbon initiatives such as Upcycle your waste project **(Short Term)**
* Link to Medway Adult Education remake project, donate excess resources, to then learn to re-use, mend, upcycle, repair **(Short Term)**

**9.2** Support and promote low carbon and circular economy opportunities to businesses in Medway:

* Evidence and celebrate with regular updates **(Short Term)**
* Support local SMES to switch to ULEV via the Kent REVS scheme **(Short Term)**

**9.3** Explore initiatives to incentivise good practice among our businesses such as environmental excellence awards for organisations committed to sustainable ways of working, leading in environmental best practice and working towards net zero carbon targets:

* Incorporate climate change criteria into the Kent and Medway Healthy Workplace award programme **(Short Term)**
* Incorporate Climate Change as a category in the Medway Business Awards, 2022 at the earliest **(Short Term)**
* Include low-carbon and environmental criteria within the Healthy Early Years Award for private, voluntary, and independent childcare settings and accredited childminders in Medway **(Medium Term)**

**9.4** Require new entrants to Innovation Park Medway to prioritise emission reductions, sustainability and environmental considerations within their proposals:

* Ensure all self-certification proposals through the IPM Local Development Order consider emission reductions, sustainability, and environmental considerations in line with the adopted IPM Design Code **(Short Term)**
* Consider sustainability at pre-application phase **(Short Term)**
* Consider emissions, sustainability, and environmental considerations at early stage of marketing interest **(Short Term)**

**9.5** Engage with Medway's largest businesses and organisations to work jointly on initiatives that reduce energy use or generate renewable energy:

* Explore opportunities to consider installing solar panels on commercial buildings and selling power from the panels **(Short Term)**

**9.6** Explore projects to ensure that the Essential Packaging and Waste Directive is being followed by Medway mail order and online businesses, post EU exit. **(Short Term)**

**9.7** Develop the market for climate change related local business and local jobs to support the growing low carbon economy:

* In partnership with existing educational networks (universities and colleges), ensure carbon neutral/climate resilient training is integrated into Further Education and opportunities for a newly skilled workforce are supported by local businesses **(Do It Now)**
* Medway Adult Education to deliver entry pathways into ‘carbon neutral/climate resilient’ training, working with partners to progress onto higher level training **(Short Term)**

**9.8** Capture the fleet practices of current partners and engage with businesses to promote Eco driving

* Consider including a clause in partner contracts to require them to implement a fleet management scheme **(Do It Now)**

# Priority Area 10 Communications

**10.1** Engage with the Medway Place Board and Medway Champions to develop awareness and explore joint opportunities to achieve net zero carbon targets:

* Develop and deliver a Medway Champions training module. **(Short Term)**
* Explore opportunities to engage with young people through the Medway Place Board **(Do It Now)**
* Develop an informal staff network to become conduits for future campaign information and share best practice **(Do It Now)**

**10.2** The Council will support KCC and other Kent districts to develop a joint communications, engagement and behaviour change strategy and action plan as per 10.1 in KMELES IP:

* Develop and promote engagement activities with KCC and other districts to support COP26 **(Do it now)**

**10.3** Design and deliver the "Small Changes" public information campaign focusing on how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint:

* Promote national days and how the community can support these **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to support 'Plastic Free Medway' **(Do It Now)**
* Promote campaigns to reduce resident's environmental impact (Kent Green Action) **(Do It Now)**

**10.4** Create a programme of events and opportunities for our communities to contribute to the developing action plan:

* Engagement programme (internal and external) to obtain the views of staff, residents, businesses and stakeholders to inform the annual review of the action plan **(Do It Now)**
* Consider engagement opportunities through existing neighbourhood forums **(Do it now)**
* Consider engagement opportunities via Citizen's Panel **(Do It Now)**

**10.5** Regular progress updates will be provided on the Council's web pages, social media platforms and Medway Matters:

* Social media accounts are being updated to have a specific eco/climate change following **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to develop climate change hub on the Council web pages **(Do It Now)**
* Issue content via new Climate Change e-newsletter **(Do It Now)**
* Good presence on climate change action in every edition of Medway Matters (quarterly) **(Do It Now)**
* Include and promote campaigns on Adult Social Care provider portal **(Short Term)**

**10.6** Identify groups in Medway working towards community climate action. Showcase and seek out funding opportunities to support their work:

* Provide social media best practice session for community groups in Medway **(Short Term)**
* Invite groups on the Council's climate change webpage to tell us what they are doing to tackle climate change so that partnerships can be established, and good work promoted **(Do It Now)**

**10.7** Ensure advice is available for residents and schools wanting to learn more about the climate emergency, this will include funding and support available:

* Further engagement with young people through Medway Primary and Secondary School Associations and Trust executives **(Do It Now)**
* Appoint representative of Medway Youth Council (MYC) to the Climate Change Member Advisory Group. Engage with MYC to support actions in their annual conference report and promotion of the climate change message within their communities **(Do It Now)**
* Advice available both online and via telephone **(Do It Now)**

**10.8** Encourage schools and colleges to support the climate change agenda by committing to reducing their carbon emissions:

* Encourage School and College Governing Bodies to include climate change on their agendas. **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to support the KM Green School Awards and promote the successes of the participating schools to share best practice and drive positive behaviour change **(Do It Now)**

**10.9** Continue working towards decreasing the amount of household waste collected and reduce levels of contamination in recycling waste streams by providing clearer information and guidance.

* Continue to promote "recycling in lockdown" to residents **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to signpost residents to recycling facilities for products unable to be recycled at kerbside and the correct methods for recycling batteries and electrical goods **(Do It Now)**
* Continue with household waste reduction and recycling campaign including educating Council tenants on need to reduce waste **(Do It Now)**
* Continue with monthly composting/regular gardening feature **(Do It Now)**
* Continue to promote season specific actions i.e., Halloween, Christmas etc **(Do it now)**
* Promotion of waste hierarchy – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle **(Do It Now)**
* Medway Adult Education to run an education programme for families and communities to increase awareness of how to live and consume to reduce landfill waste **(Short Term)**
* Develop projects and networks to help facilitate sharing economy initiatives - Sustainable Cafes/Resource Libraries **(Short Term)**

**10.10** Develop/deliver a behavioural change programme to staff and councillors to reduce carbon impact while working at home/the office and in home lives e.g., sustainable transport options, energy efficiency, procurement, and waste. **(Short Term)**

**10.11** Incorporate climate change into Medway's Public Health Schools Programme including:

* Consider supporting the Eco schools international award programme to encourage schools to join up and become more sustainable **(Medium Term)**
* The Better Medway Schools Award **(Medium Term)**

**10.12** Encourage participation among networks in the Green Champion category of Pride in Medway Awards and promote the successes of the nominations/winner to drive positive behaviour change:

* Redefine criteria to include low carbon achievements **(Short Term)**

**10.13** Develop and deliver energy efficiency, renewable energy awareness campaign to private homeowners and landlords:

* Educating households on need for energy efficiency **(Short Term)**

**10.14** Explore joint working and academic research opportunities with universities. **(Short Term)**

# Priority Area 11 Climate Adaptation and Resilience

**11.1** Continue to respond to engagement opportunities on the development of a Kent and Medway Climate Change Adaptation Programme and Implementation Plan. **(Do It Now)**

**11.2** (LLFA) Maintain, keep under review, apply, and monitor a local flood risk management strategy to prioritise local flood management approaches:

* Review and revise the current local flood risk management strategy to be consistent with the newly published Environment Agency National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy **(Short Term)**

**11.3** (LLFA) Implement relevant government guidance on taking climate change into account for flood risk decision making to mitigate the effects of climate change:

* Work with Planning Policy Team to ensure that flood risk specific Local Plan and Development Management Plan policies consider relevant climate change guidance **(Do It Now)**

**11.4** (LLFA) Work in partnership with other risk management authorities to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources:

* Increased gully cleansing in areas with known flood and drainage problems, Highways led **(Do It Now)**
* Identify and appraise options for a Flood Alleviation Scheme to reduce flood risk and increase resilience in Luton (2021) for potential delivery funding dependant thereafter **(Do It Now)**
* Identify and deliver improvements in Hoo using outputs from the Surface Water Management Plan. **(Do It Now, Short and Medium Term)**
* Strood Flood Risk Strategy **(Do It Now)**
* Undertake Surface Water Management Plan for Lower and Middle Stoke **(Do It Now)**

**11.5** (LLFA) Inform spatial and infrastructure planning, development and regeneration to manage the current and future risk of local sources of flooding:

* Input into Local Plan policy setting and provide advice to Hoo Development Framework **(Do It Now and Short)**

**11.6** (LLFA) Act as a consultee for planning applications to promote sustainable surface water arrangements in new developments:

* Number of housing developments by unit incorporating sustainable drainage systems **(Do It Now)**
* Number of commercial developments incorporating sustainable drainage systems **(Do It Now)**

**11.7** (LLFA) Work with other risk management authorities to maintain and update where necessary flood maps in the area to understand the risk of flooding:

* Work with the Environment Agency to use mapping and modelling outputs from Surface Water Management Plans to update Environment Agency Flood Mapping for local sources **(Short Term)**

**11.8** (LLFA) Work with other flood asset owners and riparian owners to ensure a programme of maintenance is delivered to improve asset and channel performance to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources:

* Share flood risk incident information with Highways Service to inform Highways Drainage Action Plan and maintenance **(Short Term)**

**11.9** (LLFA) Support emergency response partners and communities to plan, prepare, and exercise for future flood scenarios to reduce the consequences of flooding:

* Record significant flood events on the Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System (SWIMS). **(Do It Now and Ongoing)**

**11.10** Ensure the Heatwave Plan and Cold Weather Plan are reviewed and updated annually. **(Do It Now)**