

Summary of the

Climate Change Action Plan

July 2022

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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.

**Contact Details**

Environmental Services

Medway Council

Gun Wharf, Dock Road

Chatham

Kent ME4 4TR

[climatechange@medway.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@medway.gov.uk)

[www.medway.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.medway.gov.uk/climatechange)

Facebook [@MedwayClimateChange](https://www.facebook.com/MedwayClimateChange/)

Twitter [@M\_ClimateChange](https://twitter.com/M_ClimateChange)

Instagram [Medway Climate Change](https://www.instagram.com/medwayclimatechange/)

# Priority Area 1 Emission Reduction Pathways to 2050

**1.1** Continue to engage with KCC and other Kent districts on joint opportunities to achieve net zero carbon targets in line with the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy. **(Do It Now)**

**1.2** Support officers to use carbon emission calculations from Council estate and operations to assist with the development of an energy monitoring and targeting programme **(Do It Now)**

**1.3** Formulate and produce a system for assessing the carbon/financial impact of all measures within the Action Plan to assist with prioritisation **(Do It Now)**

* 1. Centralise council vehicle mileage data collection **(Do It Now)**

**1.5** Roll out the use of fuel cards where appropriate and collect data in litres of fuel as opposed to miles **(Short Term)**

**1.6** Develop a re-baselining policy and an ‘Assurance and Verification’ policy in line with Government Guidance **(Do It Now)**

**1.7** 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. **(Short Term)**

**1.8** Map the areas of influence the Council has across Medway and review policies to align with the climate emergency and drive down carbon emissions **(Short Term)**

**1.9** Develop a Medway area Climate Change Business Intelligence Scorecard **(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 **(Do It Now)**

**2.2** Ensure that climate change is a consideration within internal service plans from 2022/23 to ensure action is embedded into everything we do. Named project leads will be responsible for the delivery of individual actions. **(Do It Now)**

**2.3** Consider opportunities to increase the effectiveness of reporting the impact on carbon emissions in Council decision reports. Also consider including wider environmental impacts in decision reports. **(Do It Now)**

**2.4** Explore opportunities to add carbon management messages to existing training that the Council creates. **(Do It Now)**

**2.5** Roll out climate change/carbon literacy training for staff. Consider base level training for all employees and more targeted training for decision makers. **(Short term)**

* 1. Medway Adult Education to embed carbon management into lifelong learning programmes and design bespoke training for staff (alongside Workforce Development) **(Short Term)**

**2.7** HR to explore how the council values can be embedded throughout the employee journey. **(Do It Now)**

**2.8** Inclusion of values within job descriptions, our attraction strategy and within our corporate induction to explain what the value means and how staff can get involved. **(Do It Now)**

**2.9** Climate Response Team officer to sit on Equalities Board **(Do It Now)**

**2.10** Develop a Smart City Strategy **(Short Term)**

**2.11** Set out alternative population growth projections using information sources (such as the Authority Monitoring Report, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Population Heath Management) to better assess the challenges from climate change and impact on service requirements. **(Do It Now)**

**2.12** Review literature on the impact of climate change on health inequalities and apply findings to the Medway population. **(Do It Now)**

**2.13** Explore innovative construction methods and materials used in the delivery of the HIF Road, Rail and Strategic Environmental Management 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)**

**2.14** Continue to recycle road material and explore other options for its reuse **(Do It Now)**

**2.15** 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)**

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

* 1. Support delivery on the aims of the Medway Food Partnership and in doing so,

1. Reduce the use of single use plastics through the Refill scheme and the offer of water refill stations to businesses and residents. **(Do It Now)**
2. Address sustainability issues associated with food production, waste, and procurement. **(Short Term)**
   1. Set up a working group and carry out an audit of avoidable single use plastic and all single use products 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)**
   2. Investigate formal accreditation to BSI ISO14001 - Adaptation to Climate Change **(Short Term)**
   3. “United Nations Sustainable Development Goals” mapping activity - agree best approach to applying the SDG’s to further support the development of the Climate Change Action Plan **(Do It Now)**
   4. Ensure Climate Change is embedded within the Cultural Strategy

* Review policies for air quality, transport, waste management and sustainability at events and festivals**(Short Term)**
* Explore opportunities to join the Green Creative programme to ensure that we act to support climate change and environmental sustainability across our culture, libraries, venues, and events programmes**(Short Term)**
* Work with partners to develop content (for example digital) to facilitate the sharing of information (education and learning) which will support local creative communities to apply knowledge practically. **(Do It Now)**
* Engage with Medway creatives to deliver activities which support and engage our communities on the climate change agenda**(Do It Now)**
  1. 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)**
* Introduce a Social Value Policy and embed a scoring mechanism that favours emission reduction. **(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)**
* Develop new corporate contract management guidance. From a climate change perspective, we will ensure this includes best practice on environmental considerations **(Do It Now)**
* Roll out revised “Officers Introduction to Procurement” training to accompany/support the contract management guidance **(Do It Now)**
* Capture the fleet practices of current partners and consider including a clause in partner contracts to require them to implement a fleet management scheme. **(Do It Now)**

# 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 Housing Infrastructure Fund 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)**

# 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** Evaluate options for a permanent crowdfunding space to support projects in the action plan **(Short Term**

**4.3** Evaluate options for a carbon offset fund **(Short)**

**4.4** Explore joint working with Kent HR network to influence investment of funds in pension scheme **(Do It Now)**

# Priority Area 5 Building Retrofit Programme

**5.1** 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 subject to budget constraints and business case **(Short to Medium)**

**5.2** Explore opportunities to deliver exemplar energy efficiency homes through the Housing Revenue Account **(Short)**

**5.3** Develop plans to ensure that all council housing stock meet the national and government targets for energy standards **(Long)**

**5.4** Explore possibility of installing or retrofitting water use initiatives alongside retrofit. **(Short)**

**5.5** Ensure that future Housing Repairs contract has strong energy focus. **(Short Term)**

**5.6** 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. Explore opportunities to undertake themed projects to support landlords in understanding their legal obligations. **(Do it now)**

**5.7** Set up partnerships with large landlords to encourage them to commit to net zero and work together to access funding **(Do it Now)**

**5.8** Set up partnerships with large landlords to encourage them to commit to net zero and work together to access funding **(Do it Now)**

**5.9** Identify and explore initiatives to provide energy efficiency measures to private homes in Medway **(Do it Now)**

**2.10** Medway Adult Education to run courses for people to make their own homes more energy efficient (green DIY, retrofitting) **(Medium)**

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

* Building Management Systems - Heating Controls
* Energy efficient appliances
* LED Lighting Corporate
* Water use reduction and conservation
* Conversion of existing heating systems to low carbon heat pumps or equivalent across the Estate
* Solar PV
* LED Lighting Housing (communal areas only). Delivery of this aspect will be long term.

**5.12** Improvements to sheltered accommodation via Re:fit **(Medium)**

**5.13** School governors introduced to the Re:fit programme; continue to engage with schools on how to improve their buildings/assets when required. **(Long)**

**5.14** As per above action, incorporate LED lighting and non-fossil fuelled heating systems into new schools and when undertaking maintenance projects at schools. **(Medium)**

**5.15** Explore opportunities to reduce emissions and energy usage associated with Medway Tunnel **(Do It Now)**

**5.16** Complete next phase of low energy LED smart street lighting upgrade programme **(Short)**

**5.17** Carry out a full condition survey of lighting in car parks to inform energy efficiency standards/requirements for LED replacement programme **(Do It Now)**

**5.18** Review council commercial waste management practices and identify opportunities for improvement (own property) **(Do it Now)**

# Priority Area 6 Transport, Travel and Digital Connectivity

**6.1** Progress the delivery of the EV strategy (2022-27) and 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. **(Short-Medium)**

**6.2** 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. **(Do It Now)**

**6.3** Review strategically located council owned sites for potential installation of rapid charging points for public use, including town centres, residential locations, and other destinations. **(Do It Now)**

* 1. Identify and collate the number of EV charging points installed in private and commercial developments **(Do It Now)**

**6.5** Add EV charging points at each new school or expanding school **(Medium-Long Term)**

**6.6** Ensure the future long-term sustainability of EV charging by integrating infrastructure into new development, as stipulated within Air Quality Planning Guidance and central government. (Medium)

**6.7** Review current parking standards policies/arrangements to ensure consideration is given to the successful management of EV parking bays as they are rolled out **(Do It Now)**

**6.8** 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 to encourage usage **(Do It Now)**

**6.9** 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)**

**6.10** Maintain productive relationships with local bus operators in line with the delivery of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and Enhanced Partnership. **(Do It Now)**

**6.11** Explore opportunities for phased uptake of ULEV on supported bus routes. **(Short Term)**

**6.12** Work with local bus operators to deliver the Bus Improvement Plan to realise the introduction of electric buses in Medway, including the identification of funding opportunities at national level **(Short Term)**

**6.13** Explore opportunities to provide electric charging points for buses at the proposed new station at Hoo as part of the Future Hoo project **(Do it Now)**

**6.14** Progress the development of new walking and cycling facilities via the Active Travel Fund investment **(Do it Now)**

**6.15** Support travel planning opportunities, covering workplace, schools, and other educational settings, securing developer funding where available. **(Short)**

**6.16** Promote and facilitate walk and/or cycle to school initiatives, including local and national focus events. **(Do it Now)**

**6.17** Engage with universities and schools and colleges to identify and promote safe walking routes **(Do It Now)**

**6.18** Implement the Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030 (to meet the objectives T2A-T2C)(<https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/5531/medway_rights_of_way_improvement_plan_2020_to_2030> **(Long Term)**

**6.19** Explore opportunities to increase access to Medway’s estuarine and river frontage. When opportunities arise seek agreement to enable access to land where no such access has existed before. **(Long)**

**6.20** Delivery of cycle paths and footpaths within the Housing Infrastructure Fund scheme where possible **(Medium and Long)**

**6.21** To enable increased access to online services and reduce printing and the need for travel, move to online access for:

* + Older persons and Disabled Bus Passes
  + Medway Youth Passes
  + Parking Permits

and continue to create usable and accessible forms for projects as they arise. **(Short)**

**6.22** Provide virtual Road Safety lessons to KS1 & KS2 children **(Do It Now)**

**6.23** Tackle congestion hotspots by improving the operation of traffic signal-controlled junctions and crossings through programming changes or upgraded equipment **(Do It Now)**

**6.24** 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 the [Medway Air Quality Action Plan 2015](https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/1982/medway_air_quality_action_plan_2015) **(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)**

**6.25** Support local SMES to switch to ULEV via the Kent REVS scheme **(Do It Now)**

**6.26** Replace Council fleet of small vehicles (owned and leased) with electric by end of first carbon budget (2027) or where possible at next point of exchange (latest 2025) and once EV charge points are in place **(Short to Medium)**

**6.27** Review potential emission reduction options for RCV fleet including impact on service design, available infrastructure, and fuel type and develop strategy for replacement **(Short/ Medium)**

**6.28** Deliver phased replacement of RCV fleet with alternative fuel technology from 2030**. (Long)**

**6.29** 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)**

**6.30** Review staff parking provision **(Do It Now)**

**6.31** Promote staff discount for bus travel **(Do It Now)**

**6.32** Explore improvements to the Gun Wharf shower, changing, and cycle facilities to support improved active travel to work. **(Short Term)**

**6.33** Review the current salary sacrifice schemes and ensure that this supports the council’s climate change aspirations **(Short Term)**

**6.34** Establish a Travel Plan Working Group comprising of Council representatives from relevant departments, with meetings to be scheduled periodically. **(Medium Term)**

**6.35** Conduct a biennial online staff Travel Plan survey to help understand barriers to a shift towards more sustainable modes of travel (both commute and business travel) and inform an action plan of supportive measures. **(Medium)**

**6.36** 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)**

**6.37** 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)**

**6.38** Produce a timetable to 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 **(Short to Medium)**

**6.39** Explore opportunities for differential charging rates for CPZ permits and season tickets based on vehicle emissions **(Long Term)**

**6.40** Undertake an engagement survey with the taxi and private hire trade to understand barriers and opportunities for converting to ULEV **(Do It Now)**

**6.41** 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)**

**6.42** Review transport provision policies and explore the gradual changeover to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles for transportation of pupils under the Home to School Transport and SEND transport functions **(Medium)**

**6.43** Review transport provision policies and explore the gradual changeover to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles for transportation of pupils under the Home to School Transport and SEND transport functions **(Medium- Long)**

**6.44** Include climate change agenda factors within future tendering for transport routes **(Medium-Long)**

**6.45** Continue to support the private sector to deliver a Full Fibre Network (FFN) to improve digital connectivity across **(Medway Short/ Medium (Phase One - 2024))**

# Priority Area 7 Renewable Energy Generation

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

**7.2** Undertake a Techno Economic feasibility study (Phase II) to assess the feasibility of a heat district network within the areas of Hoo and Strood **(Do It Now)**

* 1. Undertake detailed planning development phase (Phase III) for a heat district network, dependant on completion of Phase II **(Short Term)**
  2. Submit a bid for additional funding for a Detailed Planning & Development study for a River Source Heat Network in partnership with BEIS. **(Short Term)**

**7.5** Support opportunities to further understand options for alternative energy sources in Medway, including hydrogen **(Short Term)**

**7.6** Explore the potential for large scale solar PV generation on council owned land and through the acquisition of land from third parties  **(Long Term)**

**7.7** Explore opportunities to support businesses with the install of solar panels on commercial buildings **(Short Term)**

**7.8** Undertake a review to establish the potential for solar PV within:

* Council owned car parks (solar canopies) and EV charging points
* Large scale sites (i.e., landfill) **(Short Term)**

**7.9** Promote and support community energy projects by raising awareness of their existence with the wider community **(Do it Now)**

**7.10** Ensure that all new technologies and ULEV options are considered when designing the new operations depot (Maidstone Road) **(Short term)**

# Priority Area 8 Green and Blue Infrastructure

**8. 1** Develop the Green and Blue Framework and capture infrastructure projects in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan supporting the Local Plan. **(Do It Now)**

**8.2** Develop more community growing spaces. To include:

(a) identification of sites on council land for community growing spaces **(Do It Now)**

(b) 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 **(Medium)**

**8.3** Research UK produced memorials or “Living” memorials (standard trees) for lease by the crematorium to the public within the short term. **(Do It Now)**

**8.4** Engage with other council contractors on the implementation of the pesticide and herbicide 'Reduction Usage Plan' used by Norse. **(Do It Now)**

* 1. Develop a Tree Strategy and action plan, setting clear actions and targets **(Do It now)**

**8.6** Support the delivery of actions in the Tree Strategy including,

1. Ensure there is no net loss of Street or Open Space Trees within Medway
2. Continue to deliver the tree planting programme

Continue to respond to further funding opportunities to support tree planting outside of the standard programme **(Do It Now)**

* 1. Secure a new community tree nursery  **(Short Term)**

**8.8** Increase the number of naturalised verges on council owned land by ten sites within 2022/23 **(Do It Now)**

**8.9** Subject to viability and soundness testing embrace 20% target to Biodiversity Net Gain in Local Plan  **(Short Term)**

**8.10** Identity habitat areas within Medway for protection as carbon sinks and wildlife habitats. This should include both terrestrial and marine habitats.**(Short Term)**

**8.11** Work in partnership to develop a common carbon metric for calculating the carbon offset value of nature-based solutions and apply a carbon calculator equation to all Medway owned land **(Short Term)**

**8.12** Expand on existing co-ordinated clean-up programme of marine plastic pollution **(Short Term)**

**8.13** Secure high quality green spaces for new developments within the new Local Plan **(Medium Term)**

**8.14** Maximise the management of existing woodland estates (re-instate coppicing for biodiversity, timber, landscape, and carbon storage) **(Medium Term)**

**8.15** Explore opportunities to plant hedges along roads **(Medium Term)**

**8.16** Embrace initiatives including woodland trust scheme for School Tree planting (**Medium Term)**

**8.17** Plant trees and or hedges at each new school or expanded school **(Medium- Long)**

**8.18** Undertake a joint working project to repair historic flood defences of existing salt marsh islands **(Medium term)**

**8.19** Ensure Housing Infrastructure Fund programme and other regeneration programmes include the creation of green open spaces providing benefits to both local community and wildlife **(Long Term)**

**8.20** Include an action within new Organic Waste contract to make soil improver, made from composting food and green waste, available to Medway residents (contract due for renewal in 2025). **(Long Term)**

**8.21** Establish a Strategic Environmental Management Scheme (SEMS) to develop a network of public open spaces for Hoo (Phase II SEMS)

* 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 Future Hoo. **(Do It Now)**
* Finalise Cumulative Ecological Impact Assessment **(Short Term)**
* Through the Strategic Environmental Management Scheme connect SSSI woodlands of the Hoo Peninsula from Upnor to Northward Hill (High Halstow) **(Short Term)**
* Embed green and blue infrastructure in the Hoo Development Framework **(Short Term)**
* 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 (to be completed March 2024)**

# Priority Area 9 Supporting Low Carbon Business

**9.1** Engage with local business owners through the Business for Medway network and residential homes/day care and developers to develop awareness of the climate change action plan and encourage them to work towards the net zero carbon target. **(Do It Now)**

**9.2** 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)**

**9.3** Engage with Medway's largest businesses and organisations to work jointly on initiatives that reduce energy use or generate renewable energy. **(Do It Now)**

**9.4** 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)**

**9.5** Support and promote low carbon and circular economy opportunities to businesses in Medway. Encourage businesses to evidence with case studies so that successes can be celebrated and encourage others. **(Short Term)**

**9.6** Promote and deliver the Medway Adult Education Remake project – opportunity to learn to re-use, mend, upcycle and repair. Encourage donation of excess resources **(Short Term)**

* 1. Use social media channels including, linked in, to reach and engage with local businesses on climate change **(Short Term)**
  2. Provide advice and guidance to ensure that the Essential Packaging and Waste Directive is being followed by Medway mail order and online businesses, post EU exit. **(Do It Now)**
  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
* Promote climate change criteria within the Kent and Medway Healthy Workplace award programme to encourage best practice and sharing **(Do It Now)**
* Incorporate Climate Change as a category in the Medway Business Awards **(Do It Now)**
* 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)**
  1. 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 sustainability at pre-application phase **(Short Term)**
  1. Develop the market for climate change related local business and local jobs to support the growing low carbon economy
* Seek opportunities to embed climate change training into careers education, through the Enterprise Adviser Network and other relevant education-based networks **(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)**
* The Skills & Employability Plan for Medway is being refreshed and includes decarbonisation as a key theme. It will incorporate how to further drive green jobs and address green skills shortages. **(Medium Term)**

# Priority Area 10 Communications

* 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)**
  2. Explore opportunities to engage with young people through:
* the Medway Place Board
* the Medway Primary and Secondary School Associations and Trust executives
* engagement with MYC to support actions in their annual conference report and promotion of the climate change message within their communities **(Do It Now)**
  1. Develop an informal staff network to become conduits for future campaign information and share best practice **(Do It Now)**
  2. Promote campaigns to reduce resident's environmental impact including delivery of regular bursts of the “Small Changes” campaign through the year, focusing on how individuals can reduce their carbon footprint and support national awareness days. Consider in line with Kent Green Action. **(Do It Now)**
  3. Support local Climate Change and Eco community groups via the new Community Network to help build resilient communities **(Do It Now)**
  4. Develop an inclusive engagement programme (internal and external) for staff, residents, businesses, schools, under-represented groups and other stakeholders to **(Do It Now):**

1. Inform the annual review of the action plan
2. Engage more widely on climate change
   1. Create a bank of volunteering opportunities which support the climate change agenda and support the delivery of the climate change action plan and promote them **(Do It Now).**
   2. Include and promote campaigns on Adult Social Care provider portal **(Short Term)**
   3. Provide social media best practice session for community groups in Medway. **(Short Term)**
   4. Work with Parish Councils to encourage them to adopt climate champions and work with us on common goals **(Shot Term)**
   5. Explore how we can support our communities to manage climate anxiety **(Short Term)**
   6. Develop and promote school lesson plans and home learning resources on climate change and air quality. **(Short Term)**
   7. Encourage School and College Governing Bodies to include climate change on their agendas and commit to reducing their carbon emissions. **(Do It Now)**
   8. Review responses to school survey and develop/implement actions to support the climate agenda **(Development - Do It Now/ Delivery – Short-Long)**
   9. Support the Eco schools international award programme to encourage schools to join up and become more sustainable - some Medway schools used to be signed up to the programme (2006) **(Medium)**
   10. Medway Adult Education to run an education programme for families and communities to increase awareness of how to live and consume to reduce waste **(Short term)**
   11. Develop projects and networks to help facilitate sharing economy initiatives - Sustainable Cafes/Resource Libraries **(Short Term)**
   12. Encourage participation among networks in the Green Champion category of Pride in Medway Awards and the Medway Design and Regeneration Awards. Promote the successes to drive positive behaviour change. Redefine criteria of Green Champion category of Pride in Medway to include low carbon achievements. **(Short Term)**
   13. Improve the way the Council communicates about discount and energy grant schemes available to businesses and residents (including those offered by the Local Authority Delivery scheme). This will include those who are in fuel poverty, on a low income and are vulnerable to living in a cold home due to age/health conditions. We will ensure that information is available both online and via the telephone. **(Do It Now)**
   14. Develop and deliver energy efficiency, renewable energy awareness campaign to private homeowners and landlords **(Short)**
   15. Medway Development Company to develop and provide a Welcome Pack for new buyers **(Short Term)**
   16. Explore joint working and academic research opportunities with universities **(Short Term)**
   17. Use the LGA guidance on Behaviour Change framework to 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)**
   18. Consider running a competition for council departments to challenge them on how to improve sustainability **(Do It Now)**
   19. Establish volunteering opportunities for staff which support the delivery of the Climate Change Action plan **(Do It Now)**

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

**11.4** 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 Term)**

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

* Number of housing developments by unit incorporating sustainable drainage systems.
* Number of commercial developments incorporating sustainable drainage systems.

**11.6** 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 and understand the risk of flooding. **(Short)**

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

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

* Recording significant flood events on the Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System (SWIMS) and copy into local registers. **(Do It Now and Ongoing)**

**11.9** Raise awareness of the health impacts of poor air quality across Medway, how to reduce these impacts and individual contribution to poor air quality **(Do It Now)**

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

* 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)**
* Strood Flood Risk Strategy **(Do It Now)**
* Undertake Surface Water Management Plan for Lower and Middle Stoke **(Do It Now)**