



## Climate Change Advisory Board

Members of the **Climate Change Advisory Board** of **Gravesham Borough Council** are summoned to attend a meeting to be held at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1AU on **Tuesday, 6 May 2025 at 7.30 pm** when the business specified in the following agenda is proposed to be transacted.

Most Council meetings can be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/graveshamtv>

You can watch them live or view previous recordings.

S Walsh  
Assistant Director  
(Organisational Development & Democratic Support)

### Agenda

#### Part A

#### Items likely to be considered in Public

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes from Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 8)
3. Declaration of Interest
4. To consider whether any items in Part A of the agenda should be considered in private or any items in Part B in public
5. Climate Change Delivery Plan (Pages 9 - 40)
6. Energy & Sustainability Team 2024/25 Progress (Pages 41 - 50)
7. Proposed Revised Climate Change Strategy (Pages 51 - 94)

Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend Kent DA12 1AU

8. Any other business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter or urgency.

9. Exclusion

To move, if required, that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public be excluded from any items included in Part B of the agenda because it is likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted that if members of the public are present during those items, there would be disclosure to them.

**Part B**

**Items likely to be considered in Private**

**Members**

Cllr John Burden (Chair)

Councillors: Deborah Croxton  
Dakota Dibben  
Shane Mochrie-Cox  
Ektaveen Thandi

Substitutes: To be notified

**Climate Change Advisory Board****Monday, 7 October 2024****7.30pm****Present:**

Cllr John Burden (Chair)

Councillors: Deborah Croxton  
Dakota Dibben  
Shane Mochrie-Cox  
Ektaveen Thandi

Sarah Parfitt	Director (Corporate Services)
Saida Shaikh	Climate Action Delivery Manager
Stuart Alford	Assistant Director (Operations)
Joel Simons	Waste Projects and Compliance Officer
Nicole Arthur	Head of Housing Operations
Finley Treadwell	Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)
Nick May	Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager
Suzie Hammond	Engagement and Behaviour Change Officer (KCC)
Chloe Taylor	Committee Services Officer (Minutes)

**45. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**46. To sign the minutes from the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Climate Change Advisory Board held on Monday, 08 April 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**47. Declaration of Interest**

Cllr Shane Mochrie-Cox declared an interest as he was the council's appointee to Gravesham Community Leisure Limited.

**48. Greener Kent Schools Programme**

The board agreed that the item above be taken first on the agenda.

The Engagement and Behaviour Change Officer (KCC) provided the board with a presentation that can be accessed using the following link: [\(Public Pack\)Greener Kent Schools Programme - Presentation Agenda Supplement for Climate Change Advisory Board, 07/10/2024 19:30 \(gravesham.gov.uk\)](#)

Following the presentation, the Engagement and Behaviour Change Officer (KCC) answered questions from the committee and explained that:

- The programme was about sharing the facts and not telling schools what to do. Schools across the country had implemented different ideas based on what worked best for them.
- The Engagement and Behaviour Change Officers' relationship with Kent Highways was very limited, but the programme was in its beginning stages, and it was understood that there was a connection that they were interested in keeping open.
- The school community was much wider than just the pupils and the staff in the schools, and the hope was that the programme would have a wider community impact.
- There will be an academic term included within the programme that focuses on travel and will encourage walking to school. The Engagement and Behaviour Change Officer had good connections with the Active Travel team and will be working with them on their initiatives.
- A survey was sent out to schools in the summer asking them to choose their priorities, and this helped to form the basis of the topics for each term. However, food was a small priority, but it felt that given a third of world's carbon emissions comes from the food system, it should be built into the programme. Topics such as energy inevitably cost money to change, however through food waste, it could produce a cost savings. This was also in line with legislative changes which meant that schools food waste needed to be separated.
- The Engagement and Behaviour Change Officer had a good understanding of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but felt they should be introduced later into the programme.
- Social Enterprise Kent have the Green School Awards and Kent Wildlife Trust had the Wilder Kent Awards, and these were being shared with the schools.
- The goal was to get as many schools participating in the programme as possible. The department for Education's target was for all schools to have their sustainability lead and climate action plan in place by 2025.
- The Department for Education had stated that the climate action plan was advisory, but the Engagement and Behaviour Change Officer believed that this could eventually become mandatory and form part of the Ofsted checks.

The committee noted the report.

#### **49. Climate Change Action Delivery Plan**

The Climate Action Delivery Manager presented the board with a report that detailed the Climate Change Delivery Plan for consideration and to set out the preparation for the council's fifth annual report.

Members were asked to consider and provide comments on the climate change delivery plan at appendix one and to support the approach set out in section three regarding the preparation of this year's climate change action report.

Key activities that progressed within the last six months were highlighted in section two of the report, such as:

- Decarbonisation work at cygnets' leisure centre
- Decarbonisation of fleet vehicles
- Cycle to work scheme

- EV salary sacrifice scheme
- Retrofit work to improve EPC rating
- Installation of EV charging points
- Tree planting programme
- Recycling campaign

Section three highlighted the preparations for the annual report which included borough and council emissions, carbon reduction actions and progress updates from the delivery plan areas of focus for the next year and for future projects.

Following questions and comments from members, the following was explained:

- There were a number of projects and dedicated tasks that were marked as complete and there was evidence to support this. The dates were added for tracking purposes.
- Initially, the senior officers/managers were targeted for climate change training, which was then completed. A new target was then set for members and when that was met, this extended out to a training programme for all staff, which was being worked on and would hopefully be completed by the end of the year.
- In relation to section 1.5.2 – Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) – The Assistant Director (Operations) explained that HVO was a replacement fuel for diesel, and the council were working on a business case for moving to HVO and whether this would be a straight swap or a blend. It was likely that a blend would be considered so that any unexpected operational risks could be assessed. Other local authorities had been looking at HVO and some had a small blend. The Assistant Director (Operations) was not aware of any local councils who had gone fully HVO, but there were multinational companies who had done so.
- On a refuse freighter, fuel consumption would average 3-5 miles per gallon. This was the same across the country due to the way they operate as a slow-moving vehicle. The council had started to move its fleet of vehicles to euro 6 in 2014.
- There were a number of reasons as to why EV dustcarts might not be the way forward, such as there being no guarantee on the mileage and whether an entire round could be completed in one day. The depot did not have the infrastructure to charge them and when they had one on demo, it tripped the workshop overnight. The vehicles were also around £250,000 more expensive than a standard dustcart and they were heavier which meant that less rubbish could be carried.
- Regarding EV vans, there were some vans that could be changed, but vans for Housing Operations were not parked at the depot which meant they couldn't currently be charged overnight. There were currently 18 charging points and 18 EV vehicles, however, not all vehicles needed to be charged at the same time which meant there was the opportunity to increase the fleet of vehicles.
- The industry was predicting that the cost of EV vehicles would come down to prices similar to diesel and petrol. This would mean that the council could procure more EV vehicles moving forward.
- GBC have installed 52 electric vehicle charging points across the borough within the last 3-years. The council will continue to look at the usage in current sites or areas that could accommodate more chargers. A few sites had been put forward to Connected Kerb who were looking into the feasibility of the sites. Additional sites had also been put forward at West Street Car park and Camer Parade car park.
- KCC had applied through the Energy Saving Trust to access funding available under the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme – they were awaiting the outcome.

- The council promoted their climate change activities through social media pages, articles and press releases. Additionally, the summation of activity was concluded in the annual report, which detailed the impact and outputs to demonstrate the benefits for the borough, either in reduced emissions or other co-benefits of climate action.
- Other local councils were grappling with slightly different issues depending on their location, communities, businesses and their road networks. However, to compare how GBC sit in relation to other local authorities was detailed on the Climate Emergency UK Scorecards which provided an assessment and placed GBC fourth in the County.
- Three years ago, the council had increased the level of tree planting that was undertaken, not just in terms of numbers but also the size and quality of the trees to ensure they had a greater chance of survival. The number of planted trees will be recorded and then officers will go back out after a period of time to confirm whether they have taken or not. This was not just due to vandalism as not every tree would take. However, they can evaluate what they need to do differently, such as a different planting area etc.
- All trees planted will be native to the country and this includes an increased variety to increase biodiversity.

The board agreed the report.

## **50. Climate Change Strategy**

The Director (Corporate Services) presented the board with a report that detailed the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy thus far to allow consideration of the future strategic direction of the council's climate action given the changes to national policy, the economic situation of the country and the council's financial position since the council adopted the strategy in December 2020.

The paper was included on the agenda to enable the board to review and take account of the decision made by Cabinet to review the climate change strategy.

The report also set out the key emission sources for the borough and it looks to recognise that whilst the council have limited resources it was important that they were used to impact on the emissions within the borough. The proposal was that the council continued to look at its own emissions, which were only 0.5% of the total borough emissions, and try to use its position within the community as a leader to take action to reduce emissions across the borough.

The council will be undertaking consultation exercises and bringing a revised strategy to Council in April 2025.

The board agreed the report.

## **51. Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) emissions statistics**

The Climate Action Delivery Manager presented the board with an update on the latest greenhouse gas emissions data that was published by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

Each year, DESNZ published a report detailing greenhouse gas emissions data for every local authority area. Due to the amount of data used to compile the statistics, the data lagged by two years and the method of calculating the statistics was constantly being refined to provide the most accurate picture possible.

It was not unusual for the previous years information to be updated and the figures in previous years to be revised. The council will always use the latest available data to ensure it was consistent.

The yearly total for CO2 emissions for the year 2022 had declined in comparison to 2021. The two largest areas for emissions within the borough were transport at 42% and domestic properties at 32%, followed by industry and commercial properties at 12% and 10%. Within the transport category, the largest contributor to emissions was A-roads. This had been highlighted should the development of the Lower Thames Crossing proceed as it was likely that this would increase.

The most effective way for the council to decarbonise its housing stock and the wider private stock was to move to heating solutions that did not use fossil fuel.

The board discussed the issue surrounding EPC ratings. The Career Graded Surveyor advised that when installing heat pumps in domestic properties they were having to install solar panels as well to bring the EPC rating up and to prevent it from going down. The council work with a number of organisations who have direct input into DESNZ and who feedback the concerns. Pressure emerged from the likeliness that the decent homes standard would feature thermal comfort, in addition to legislation that introduced thermal comfort as a hazard in the property which had to be dealt with in a limited timescale.

The committee noted the report.

### **Close of meeting**

The meeting ended at 8.42 pm

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**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

### Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Climate Change Advisory Board

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Reporting officer:** Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)

**Subject:** Climate Change Delivery Plan

**Purpose and summary of report:**

To present Members of the Climate Change Advisory Board with the *Climate Change Delivery Plan* for consideration.

**Recommendations:**

Members are asked to consider and provide comments on the Climate Change Delivery Plan at Appendix One.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	None
Finance and Value for Money	N/A – this is an information-only report.
Balancing the Budget	a. Does this report form part of the balancing the budget delivery plan? N/A – this is an information-only report.
	b. If yes to question a, when will the projected savings be recognised in the budget? N/A – this is an information-only report.
	c. If no to question a, should it form part of the plan? N/A – this is an information-only report.
Corporate Plan	<b>One Council:</b> a well-run and innovative authority, defined by its skilled and valued workforce, committed to developing its local social impact. <b>Climate Action:</b> as a socially responsible and carbon literate council, deliver on our corporate climate pledge for net zero by 2030.

<b>Climate Change</b>	Whilst this is an information-only report, its content should be of interest to Members and officers and used as a basis to inform the council's activities, particularly in relation to borough policymaking and decisions regarding climate change adaptation and development sustainability.
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 At the meeting of the Full Council on 01 December 2021, the council adopted the Climate Change Strategy for the council for the period 2022-2030.

1.2 As part of the Strategy, a high-level, strategic Delivery Plan was set out under three key workstreams:

### 1.2.1 Gravesham Borough Council – the organisation

Focusing on how the council can change its own operations and those of its employees, wherever possible to reduce the level of carbon emissions it produces.

### 1.2.2 Gravesham Borough Council – the housing provider

Exploring opportunities to bring the council's current housing stock up to a better level of energy efficiency standard where it is possible to do so; ensuring new council housing is built to a high level of sustainability and ensuring local planning policy reflects the need for the borough to consider energy efficiency in all developments moving forward.

### 1.2.3 Gravesham Borough Council – the community leader

It is clear that the council cannot directly affect all of the changes that are needed across the borough. However, in its role as a community leader, it can work with residents, community groups, and partners to educate and support them in making changes that will have a positive impact on the level of carbon emissions in the borough.

## 2. Climate Change Delivery Plan

2.1 The Climate Change Delivery Plan is shown at Appendix One. This provides specific actions with officer updates along with an indication of resource implication and timeframe setting out how the council will work towards its climate change ambitions, as per the approved Climate Change Strategy.

2.2 Below are some of the key activities that progressed in the last six months.

- Since December the diesel-fuelled vans and HGVs in the fleet have been fuelled with a blend of 25% HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) and 75% white diesel. The phased introduction of HVO fuel has been completed, and the entire fleet is running on 100% HVO fuel.

- Since the programme commenced, the Council has completed major retrofit works to 22 properties, including installing solar panels, air source heat pumps, and insulation upgrades.
  - The Council was successful with its bid to BEIS for Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3 to install Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV to 300 properties, costing £4.5 million. The bid received £2.1 million, with the Council co-funding the rest.
  - The installation of an EV Charger at Cleveland House has been completed, and the council is reviewing further areas to install electric vehicle chargers.
  - The new development at the St. Columbus site has been identified to install approximately 70 cycle spaces, which are in line with KCC guidance and are on target to be completed by April 2026.
  - The Council is focusing on integrating green infrastructure into its property estate, specifically Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Hazells Farm is being used as a learning exercise to refine BNG principles. As the UK's BNG infrastructure is still developing, the Council is positioning itself as an early adopter to capitalise on future opportunities.
  - The Waste Projects and Compliance Officer attended Cobham Primary School on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 and spoke to more than 200 students about waste, recycling and litter.
  - A total of 165 panels and 13 batteries were installed during the Solar Together Phase Four Spring Auction, resulting in an estimated reduction of 15,378 kg of carbon annually and 384 tonnes over a 25-year period.
  - The Council has been awarded funding to produce a Rural Local Cycling & Walking Implementation Plan (LCWIP), with a view to this work being completed by August 2025.
  - Our "Recycle Your Electricals" project in partnership with Material Focus came to an end in November 2024. During the project, Gravesham residents and staff donated more than 33,200 small electrical items, weighing in at 30.3 tonnes via the small electrical recycling points.
  - The proposal to establish a Battery Energy Storage System on council-owned land within the borough has been agreed by the Cabinet in March 2025.
- 2.3 Future annual reports will be based on the Delivery Plan, and this will probably be the last update on the currently adopted strategy until the Full Council considers a new council strategy at its next meeting.
- 2.4 The Climate Change Advisory Board are asked to provide their thoughts and comments on the Delivery Plan.

### **3. Appendices**

Appendix One - Climate Change Delivery Plan

### **4. Background Papers**

Background papers pertaining to this report are held by the Director (Corporate Services). Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, liaise with the Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

**Lead Officer:** Saida Shaikh, Climate Action Delivery Manager

**Email:** [saida.shaikh@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:saida.shaikh@gravesham.gov.uk)






Secondary Implications	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<p>What are the risks associated with the content of this report?</p> <p>There are no specific risks associated with the details contained within the Climate Change Strategy. It will be necessary, however, for both officers and Members are to consider any risks that may be associated with proposed climate change actions to ensure these are fully considered prior to implementation.</p>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p>
	<p>Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, you should complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment and/or seek advice from the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>Does the content of this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against those with a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Gender reassignment</li> <li>• Marriage and civil partnership</li> <li>• Pregnancy and maternity</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Religion or belief</li> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Sexual orientation</li> </ul> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, you need to complete an equality impact assessment</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered.</i></p>
<b>Other Considerations</b>	How will the content of report support or affect the following:
	Socio-economic impact: There are no socio-economic implications resulting from this report.
	Crime and Disorder: There are no crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.
	Safeguarding Children & Adults: There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults implications resulting from this report.
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement:</b>	<p>Has there been any consultation or engagement, including future planned consultation/engagement, in relation to this paper?</p> <p>No</p>

	Please liaise with the Community Involvement team for assistance if required. <a href="mailto:community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk">community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Involvement of other services</b>	Due to the corporate responsibility around the delivery of the council's climate action, various services have contributed to the preparation of this project, as detailed in Appendix One - Climate Change Delivery Plan.


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# Climate Change Management Delivery Plan


## Priority 1: GBC - the organisation

		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
1.1		Educate all council Members and officers on Climate Change so that they can have an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis. Create opportunities and engagement activities to enable them to be actively involved in the council's activity around Climate Change and become advocates for Climate Change in all council, business, and community operations.					
	1.1.1	Plan facilitation and delivery of the training toolkits provided by the Carbon Literacy Project for the target audiences (officers and members) and finalise the rollout plan.	No. officers trained - No. Members trained -	Lead Officer - Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)	Q4 2021/22	 £	Completed -> September 2023
	1.1.2	Delivery of Carbon Literacy training for officers and members as per rollout plan and conduct pre- and post-course evaluation surveys with all participants.	No. officers trained - 0  No. Members trained - 0	Lead Officer - Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)	Ongoing	 £ £	There was no training scheduled this year as we have already trained the wider management group and Members in the last two years. To date, we have trained a total of 70 Officers and Members with 46 certified as carbon literate.  In order to facilitate corporate staff training, the Council is currently implementing a Learning Management System (LMS), which will be accessible to all employees from April. The Council is working with Kent County Council (KCC) to create general climate awareness training for employees that will be accessible through the new platform.
	1.1.3	Become a Carbon Literate Organisation (as defined by the Carbon Literacy Project), achieving bronze status by August 2022.	This is a new action with no existing baseline	Lead Officer - Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)	Q2 2022/23	 £	Completed -> February 2023
	1.1.4	Develop plans to achieve silver status.		Lead Officer - Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)	Q3 2025/26	 £	In order to facilitate staff training, the Council is currently implementing a Learning Management System (LMS), which will be accessible to all employees from April. The Council is working with Kent County Council (KCC) to create a general climate awareness training for employees that will be accessible through the new platform.
1.2		Progress plans to replace the existing Civic Centre, The Woodville, Cascades Leisure Centre, and Cygnet Leisure Centre (the largest energy-using operational assets of the council) by 2026 with new energy-efficient buildings, targeting the achievement of net zero standards. Ensure that steps are taken to ensure that the embodied carbon of a new building is considered in design and construction.					
	1.2.1	Seeks to identify and implement a viable scheme that will provide for a new carbon-efficient Civic Centre.	Gas: 317.08 tCO <sub>2</sub> e  Electricity: 186.78 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Lead Officer - Director (Corporate Services)  Supporting Officer - Assistant Director (Strategic Regeneration)	Winter 2026 (subject to viable scheme coming forward)	 £ £ £	This project has not progressed any further due to the current economic climate and lack of clarity around any potential impacts of Local Government Reorganisation. This said, the council continues to consider opportunities to improve the efficiency of the Civic Centre where it is appropriate and financially viable to do so.  The council has secured funding from Homes England to deliver a regeneration and delivery framework for key council sites in the Gravesend town centre.

### KEY:

 - under five members of staff involved in project delivery







 - between 5 and 10 members of staff involved in project delivery



 - 10 or more members of staff involved in project delivery

£ - Low - less than £10,000

£ £ - Medium - £10,000 - £50,000

£ £ £ - High - More than £50,000

		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
	1.2.2	Cascades Leisure Centre - progress the project to bring forward a new leisure facility at the existing site.	Gas: 184.83 tCO2e Electricity: 70.57 tCO2e	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Director (Corporate Services) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Strategic Regeneration)	Winter 2027 (subject to viable scheme coming forward)	 £ £ £	With a focus on a "hub and spoke" model to support health, wellbeing, employment, and skills, the Local Growth Minister has approved revised plans for Gravesham's £20 million Levelling Up Fund allocation. Of these, £17m will be invested in replacing the ageing Cascades Leisure Centre with a low-carbon facility.
	1.2.3	Seeks to identify and implement a viable scheme to decarbonise Cygnet Leisure Centre	Gas: 348.37 tCO2e Electricity: 107.57 tCO2e <i>ESTIMATE</i>	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Director (Corporate Services) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Strategic Regeneration)	Timeframe dependent on EDC confirming proposals.	 £ £ £	Decarbonisation works under the Capital Element of the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund continue to progress; pool covers have been installed and works to the Air Handling Unit (AHU) have commenced.
1.3	Develop and implement a programme of targeted carbon reduction projects on the remaining operational assets held by the council, focusing on the energy source, energy use reduction, and 'fabric-first' measures.						
	1.3.1	Brookvale Depot - develop plans for the site, considering service requirements and options for retrofitting and/or redevelopment to improve building efficiency.	Gas: 33.46 tCO2e Electricity: 25.40 tCO2e	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Director (Environment) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Director (Corporate Services)	Q1 to Q3 2026	 £ £ £	Funding to support the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) Panels has been included in the council's approved capital programme for 2025/26. Works will commence in the new financial year.
	1.3.2	Undertake surveys of council-owned properties to identify works required to improve energy efficiency and develop a programme of proposed works, prioritising the largest emitting assets	Gas: 375.31 tCO2e Electricity: 136.75 tCO2e	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Building and Facilities Manager	Q3 to Q4 2023/24	 £ £	Surveys have been undertaken of key council assets. Despite the financial constraints experienced by the council in recent years, works have taken place previously to upgrade lighting in key council buildings, with decarbonisation works almost complete at Cygnet Leisure Centre and plans to install PV Panels at the Brookvale Depot to take place in the new financial year.
	1.3.3	Explore funding opportunities (Government grants, loans etc.) to progress required works.	N/A - funding availability may affect works completed	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)	Ongoing	 £	Funding opportunities continue to be shared through emails to relevant teams and explored where it is considered that the council could be eligible to apply.
1.4	Seek to secure an alternative energy supply through the procurement of renewable energy when the current supply contract ends in 2024.						
	1.4.1	Commence tender exercise for the procurement of renewable energy for council use.	Existing contract does include an element of renewable energy	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Director (Corporate Services) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Building and Facilities Manager	Q4 2022/23	 £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; November 2023</b>







**KEY:** - under five members of staff involved in project delivery - between 5 and 10 members of staff involved in project delivery - 10 or more members of staff involved in project delivery



£ - Low - less than £10,000

£ £ - Medium - £10,000 - £50,000

£ £ £ - High - More than £50,000











		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
	1.4.2	Switch to a new energy supplier.	Look to increase this element at the next renewal	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Director (Corporate Services) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Building and Facilities Manager	October 2024	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; November 2023</b>
1.5	Design and implement a fleet replacement programme intended to deliver decarbonisation of the fleet by 2030, focusing on small and medium-sized petrol and diesel vehicles from 2022.						
	1.5.1	Work with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to undertake a review of the vehicle fleet and identify opportunities to reduce the impact on the environment	390.63 tCO2e (Operational Fleet vehicles only)	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Operations)	Q2 to Q4 2021/22	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2022</b>
	1.5.2	Commence a fleet replacement programme, focusing on the decarbonisation of smaller fleet vehicles.	Current level of alternatively fuelled vehicles - 0	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Operations)	Q1 2022/23 and ongoing	 £ £ £	Since December the diesel-fuelled vans and HGVs in the fleet have been fuelled with a blend of 25% HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) and 75% white diesel. The phased introduction of HVO fuel has been completed, and the entire fleet is running on 100% HVO fuel.  This action has been completed since the council converted 18 vans to electric and the remaining vans are now operating on HVO. <b>Completed -&gt; March 2025</b>
	1.5.3	Linked to 1.3.1. above, finalise plans to deliver fleet vehicle charging infrastructure at the Brookvale Depot.	Current level of charging points at the depot - 0	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Operations)	Q1 to Q3 2022/23	 £ £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; October 2023</b>
1.6	Continue to identify and implement opportunities to improve the efficiency of journeys completed by fleet vehicles.						
	1.6.1	Continuing to make use of the routing software to ensure fleet vehicles minimise journey times where possible.	390.63 tCO2e (Operational Fleet vehicles only)	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Operations)	Commence April 2022 and then ongoing	 £	Work to further develop the waste service by re-routing waste collection rounds is progressing, with a view to implementing the optimised collection rounds by the end of Q2 2025-26.
	1.6.2	Continue to develop a driver training programme to ensure all drivers of GBC fleet vehicles know how to make the cost-efficient use of the vehicles available to them, particularly as new vehicles are brought online.	Current level of training	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Waste and Transport Manager <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Operations)	Training has already taken place and will continue in future years.	 £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>
1.7	Develop a Sustainable Travel Policy to reduce the level and impact of business travel. Develop policies and initiatives to encourage active travel by Members and officers.						

**KEY:** - under five members of staff involved in project delivery - between 5 and 10 members of staff involved in project delivery - 10 or more members of staff involved in project delivery


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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
	1.7.1	Complete research into alternative travel arrangements for staff including different cycle-to-work and cycle-hire scheme options as well as potential car-sharing arrangements.	Previous cycle-to-work programme in 2015 resulted in 21 orders being placed for bicycles	Lead Officer - HR Consultant	Q1/Q2 - 2024	 	<b>Cycle to Work Scheme</b> Since the implementation of this scheme, i.e. from May 2023, there have been 25 successful applications. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 - 11 total applications</li> <li>• 2024 - 12 total applications</li> <li>• 2025 - 2 applications so far</li> </ul> <b>Octopus EV Salary Sacrifice Scheme</b> There have been 7 successful applications so far.
	1.7.2	Publicise the Employer Travel Club which seeks to encourage people to utilise public transport and offers staff savings on local Arriva bus travel and as well as other modes of transport.	1 person has utilised the scheme since its introduction	Lead Officer - HR Consultant	Q1-2022 and ongoing	 	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	1.7.3	Develop and publicise a Hybrid Working Policy	This is a new action with no existing baseline	Lead Officer - HR Business Partner Supporting Officer - HR Consultant	Currently undergoing a trial period prior to full implementation	 	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2022</b>
	1.7.4	Embark on a programme of culture/behaviour change training and communication to encourage people to move to alternative travel and working arrangements.	This is a new action with no existing baseline	Lead Officer - HR Consultant Supporting Officer - HR Business Partner Communications Manager	Q3 - 2025 Following the completion of the above actions	 	All the current alternative sustainable travel arrangements and initiatives continue to be promoted to staff such as the Cycle to Work Scheme and Employer Travel Club, as well as the new Octopus EV Scheme.  A specific culture change plan/programme has not yet been developed due to focus on other ongoing projects concerning organisational transformation, such as Investors in People, which also have an impact on staff engagement and change throughout the organisation.


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## Priority 2: GBC - the housing provider

		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
<b>2.1</b>	Implement a GBC resident engagement strategy around Climate Change. Work with partners to promote climate change key messages and activities to all council housing tenants as a means to support them in adjusting behaviours and delivering their own climate change action agendas.						
	<b>2.1.1</b>	Create and implement a resident strategy in relation to energy improvement works to ensure access and buy-in.	Currently no engagement strategy for energy retrofit works	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2022/2023	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>
	<b>2.1.2</b>	Create 'Staff Energy Champions' to assist residents and other staff members with energy-saving advice	Previously only 2 staff members had undertaken this training	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2022/2023 and ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; June 2024</b>
	<b>2.1.3</b>	Encourage residents to purchase high-rated A+++ energy-efficient appliances	No previous communication with tenants had been undertaken	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1-2022/2023	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>
	<b>2.1.4</b>	Provide energy-saving information to tenants	Not previously provided on sign-up of new tenancies	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)	Q3 2022/2023 and ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; May 2024</b>

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
				<b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets			
	<b>2.1.5</b>	Tenant awareness around saving energy and reducing carbon emissions. Having an 'Estate Energy Champion' per estate to increase resident awareness	Energy Champion scheme did not previously exist	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q2-2022/2023 and ongoing	 £	Linked to action 2.1.2, the estate champion scheme will be explored. As part of our retrofit projects, communications prepared for residents have been reviewed and will provide them with additional information about carbon and bill savings following the completion of the works.  This piece of work will be part of the wider tenant engagement panels being led by Neighbourhood Services.  Housing Cabinet Committee will be presented with the terms of reference in March 2025 for approval.
	<b>2.1.6</b>	Undertake research into the potential link between poor energy performance, voids and rent arrears.	No research has been previously undertaken	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1-2022/2023 and ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	<b>2.1.7</b>	Share best practices, lessons learned and case studies through Kent Housing Group, BEIS, LinkedIn, Private Landlord Forum	Sharing of best practice regarding housing has always been shared however not focused on net zero.	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	This is ongoing, and we share best practices where possible, and also receive feedback from forums.






		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
<b>2.2</b>		Ensure all investment decisions regarding the council's housing stock are made with consideration to the impact of climate change. Develop and deliver a programme of investment to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy rating of the housing stock.					



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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	2.2.1	Review all future planned work programmes to ensure a 'No regrets' approach and that any work is coordinated where possible with any energy-saving measures.	Baseline levels of GBC Housing Stock's EPC ratings before the strategy was adopted: A Grade - 21 B Grade - 425 C Grade - 2786 D Grade - 2084 E,F,G Grade - 295	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q3-Q4 2022/2023 and ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	2.2.2	Create an asset management strategy consisting of an Asset Grading Module.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q3 2023/24	 £ £	The draft strategy has been reviewed in line with the emerging guidance and legislation in relation to Damp and Mould, Building Safety and Decent Homes to be presented to Cabinet by the end of Q2 2025-26.
	2.2.3	Create a programme to tackle the homes that lack loft or cavity wall insulation.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	2.2.4	Create a programme of properties and blocks for retrofitting taking a 'fabric first' approach based on data from the Parity system.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	2.2.5	Switching to PIR-sensored lights in blocks and sheltered schemes to prevent lights from being left on all night and day		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)	Q3-4 2021/2022 and ongoing	 £ £	The Housing Assets Team is currently implementing remote monitoring software for new LED communal lighting installations. Lights are currently being manufactured, and we have received the first batch of lights, so work will commence and be completed by in-house electricians.

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
				<b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets			
	<b>2.2.6</b>	Creation of a replacement programme of GBC owned internal and external communal and street lighting on the estates with LED upgrades to expand on existing works.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	The Housing Assets Team is currently implementing remote monitoring software for new LED communal lighting installations. Lights are currently being manufactured, and we have received the first batch of lights, so work will commence and be completed by in-house electricians.
	<b>2.2.7</b>	Carry out a review of the planned works programmes to see if any improvements and changes can be made such as triple glazing, use of recycled materials, installation of green roofs.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	<b>2.2.8</b>	Explore water saving initiatives such as installing water efficient shower heads, tap aerators, dual flush toilets, waste water heat recovery and providing water butts.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	Water-saving initiatives have been completed in communal areas. Officers are reviewing how this can be implemented in domestic properties and can be included in the planned work programmes.


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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	2.2.9	Gas boilers - retrofit installation of flue gas heat recovery systems (FGHRS) to new gas boilers as a short-term measure		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2022/2023	 £ £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>
	2.2.10	Review of the void property lettable standard to include air tightness, draft reduction and adequate ventilation		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q2 2022/2023 and then ongoing	 £	<p>The Decent Homes Standard has not yet been released. The Council has now carried out major retrofit works to 22 properties consisting of insulation upgrades, and installations of air source heat pumps and solar panels.</p> <p>Before the retrofitting work, each property had inefficient heating systems and was rated EPC D or lower; they are now rated EPC B or higher.</p> <p>The average household produces 6 tonnes of CO2 emissions, but these properties now only produce 0.9 tonnes.</p>
	2.2.11	Carry out EPCs following the completion of planned works	Baseline levels of GBC Housing Stock's EPC ratings before the strategy was adopted:  A Grade - 21 B Grade - 425	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	<b>Current EPC's figures are as follows:</b>  A Grade – 70 (1%) B Grade – 592 (11%) C Grade – 3932 (70%) D Grade – 1016 (18%) E, F, G Grade – 25 (0.44%)

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	2.2.12	Carry out a review of the heating system installation programme and put a robust plan in place to switch from gas to an alternative heat source and review blocks for the potential of installing heat networks.	C Grade - 2786 D Grade - 2084 E,F,G Grade - 295	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	<p>The installation of Ground Source Heating and Solar PV is still in progress at Cleveland House. All ground works have been completed, and internal installations have begun. Regular meetings are arranged with the residents to keep them informed of progress and answer any queries.</p> <p>Once all works are completed at Cleveland House, all properties should meet EPC rating A and be assessed at net zero.</p> <p>The Council submitted a bid to BEIS at the end of 2024 for Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3 bid to install Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV to 300 Properties costing £4.5 million which are currently rated EPC D or lower, and was recently announced that we were successful in the bid receiving £2.1 million and the Council will co-fund rest £2.4 million.</p>
2.3	Ensure that all projects to deliver new council-owned housing target the achievement of net zero standards and include provision for electric vehicle charging.						
	2.3.1	The council will take a ‘no regrets’ approach to installing renewable energy, power, and heat to ensure that new developments are future-proofed with limited potential for further adjustments.	New developments dealt with in isolation with separate Employers Requirements, (ER's). ER's currently require that thermal U values of external walls, glazing and roofs exceed existing Building Regs standards, (minimum 30% over Part L)	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Senior Development Manager	Q1 2022/2023 and then ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>


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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	2.3.2	The council will ensure that the level of energy, heating and power in new council homes is in line with government standards such as the Future Homes Standard.	New developments dealt with in isolation with separate ERs. Solar panels are not currently installed in new developments and have been installing gas boilers to date.	Lead Officer - Senior Development Manager	Q1 2022/2023 and then ongoing	 £	St Columba's Close project is progressing well with completion scheduled for April 2026. The Worcester Close project is still in the planning permission stage and is still to go out to tender.  The proposed development of annual regulated carbon emissions against Building Regulations' target emissions is expected to be a 50.4% reduction against Government Building Regulations "Conservation of fuel and power: Approved Document L" for both projects.
	2.3.3	Making allowance within the council's development standards and requirements that EV charging is included when identifying areas and preparing proposals for new council homes.	Currently working on Planning requirements that 20% of new development is futureproofed with cabling for EV charging points.	Lead Officer - Senior Development Manager	Q1 2023/2024 and then ongoing	 £	Completed -> September 2023
	2.3.4	Provide clear guidance and information to tenants who are looking to install EV charging points at the property (non-estate)	Guidance was previously not provided to tenants	Lead Officer - Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  Supporting Officer - Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	Completed -> March 2024
2.4	Seek to secure an alternative energy supply through the procurement of renewable energy when the current supply contract for communal and other council-managed housing assets in 2024.						
	2.4.1	Review current energy tariffs for the provision of energy in communal and council-managed housing assets, with a view to moving to green energy providers if it is feasible to do so.	National average of renewables provided to the grid - according to BEIS statistics is 43.1%	Head of Housing Assets	Q2 2022/2023	 £ £	Completed -> November 2023
2.5	Explore alternative energy solutions for communal areas and council housing tenants, looking to encourage use of green energy companies wherever possible.						





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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	2.5.1	Encourage the use of green energy companies in publications and explore with current providers to see if a discounted service could be offered to residents.	No previous communication with tenants had been undertaken	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	Opportunities to encourage the use of green energy will continue to be identified. The energy-saving advice document has been shared with residents and is due to be shared more widely including with new tenancy packs.  Where low-carbon heating is installed, the council encourages residents to remove the gas meter if no gas appliances are in use. Alternatively, we urge residents to switch to electric appliances and remove the gas meter, promoting long-term savings.
	2.5.2	Ensure that all energy tariffs are 'green' tariffs that are used to power the communal areas	No blocks are currently on green tariffs	Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2023/2024 and then ongoing	 £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; November 2023</b>
	2.5.3	Explore options to install Solar PV panels to power the communal electricity in communal areas of blocks and schemes and potentially for the power to flats also.	Currently 0 installations specifically to power communal areas.	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2022/2023 and ongoing	 £ £	The installation of Solar PV at Cleveland House is still in progress. Each property has its own array, including the communal area to reduce fuel bills for both the residents and the council.  The Council is also working on submitting a BSR (Building Safety Regulator) application to install solar panels in 'The Hive' to power the communal area. This will include a 24.92kW system with battery storage.
2.6	Develop and deliver a programme of investment in EV charging points in existing housing estates.						
	2.6.1	Identify opportunities to introduce EV charging on existing council estates where feasible and appropriate.	Currently no EV charging on housing estates	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2023/2024 and ongoing	 £	The installation of an EV Charger at Cleveland House has been completed, and the council is reviewing further areas to install electric vehicle chargers.  The council now has 4x dual 22kW chargers installed in our housing estates, which are open to the public to use, generating income and encouraging and supporting EV ownership. To date, this has generated £896.32 and they have been used 67 times.



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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	<b>2.6.2</b>	Encourage residents to consider alternatively powered vehicles through publications such as the monthly housing newsletters and energy-saving advice leaflets.	No previous communication with tenants had been undertaken	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q2 2023/2024 and ongoing	 £	The installation of an EV Charger at Cleveland House has been completed and made available to the public to encourage and support EV ownership and generate revenue.  The council is reviewing further areas to install electric vehicle chargers.
<b>2.7</b>	Work with council tenants to promote a better understanding of the benefits of alternatively powered vehicles and active travel options.						
	<b>2.7.1</b>	Ensure cycle stores are allowed for in the design of new developments where appropriate and create a programme for the installation of cycle storage on existing estates where feasible to encourage residents to cycle as an alternative method of travel.	Four most recent new developments provided with cycle storage in line with Planning requirements. Older housing stock does not have any cycle storage.	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Senior Development Manager	New builds - commence 2021-22 and then ongoing  Existing sites - commence Q1 2022/2023 and then ongoing	 £ £ (Capital Budget)	The new development at the St. Columbus site has been identified to install approximately 70 cycle spaces, which are in line with KCC guidance and equivalent to one space per flat or maisonette and one per bedroom space per house, which is on target to be completed by April 2026.
	<b>2.7.2</b>	Continue to deliver sustainable travel behaviour change messaging through online digital content and targeted engagement opportunities	No previous communication with tenants had been undertaken	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; June 2024</b>
<b>2.8</b>	Reduce the amount of waste generated by the service and tenants that is sent to landfills with the intention to increase recycling rates.						




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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	2.8.1	Set waste reduction and recycling targets for building and refurbishment waste including making amendments to new contracts to outline requirements.	No current targets	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2023/2024 and ongoing	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; April 2024</b>
	2.8.2	Carry out a review of communal waste and recycling facilities across all council-owned estates and identify a programme of improvements such as de-commissioning rubbish chutes/ hoppers. Undertake resident survey per site for a greater understanding as to how easy it is for them to recycle	5 sites have currently had waste improvement works carried out	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q2 2022/2023 and ongoing	 £ £ (Capital Budget)	Currently, across the borough, 75% of blocks have recycling and 24% have food waste recycling. We are collaborating with the Waste Management team to implement recycling in the 15 non-recycling blocks and the 53 non-food waste recycling blocks before the Simpler Recycling deadline of March 31, 2026.  Some of the council's EPR funding for 2025/26 has been allocated to increase recycling communications especially targeting recycling in flats and hard-to-reach areas.
	2.8.3	Creating an affordable recycled furniture and household items project for residents to donate.	No previous scheme existed	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q1 2023/2024 and ongoing	 £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	2.8.4	Estate skip initiative - providing skips for residents to dispose correctly of items.	No previous scheme existed	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Compliance & Projects Manager  Assistant Project Surveyor (Energy & Sustainability) <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Housing Assets	Q2 2023/2024	 £ £	As part of the retrofit works at Springvale Court, this initiative was trialled and a skip was provided to residents to dispose of any items, this was also completed in tandem with the Ellenor project for any items that could be reused and sold in their shops. This initiative reduced the amount of waste that went to landfills and generated a small income for Ellenor Charity.  As part of the work taking place at Cleveland House, this initiative will also be included.



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	<b>2.8.5</b>	Mulching and composting 95% of in-house green waste	23 tonnes have been recycled in 2021/22. 15 tonnes used for biofuel, 8 tonnes for green landfill for general composting.	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Parks and Open Spaces Manager <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Town Centre & Cultural Services	Q1 2023/2024 and ongoing	 £ £	The Council is mulching, composting, and sending to biomass over 95% of our green waste. The total garden waste, including GBC collections of garden waste, has been 4,193 tonnes over the past year to the present date. This is a 5.6 % decrease from the previous year, but it is something we are trying to manage more efficiently and effectively within the horticultural department.
<b>2.9</b>	Ensure the principles of green infrastructure are incorporated into new council housing developments and major works to the existing estate.						
	<b>2.9.1</b>	Develop and implement a Tree and Biodiversity Strategy	No strategy currently exists	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Parks and Open Spaces Manager <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Town Centre & Cultural Services	Q2 2025/2026	 £	In accordance with required planning rules, a preliminary Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been made and shared with management. A Biodiversity Strategy is currently being developed after the Full Council approved the Biodiversity Duty - First Consideration Report in December. The BNG, LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy), and county strategy will all be taken into consideration as part of the effort to improve the borough's tree policy.
	<b>2.9.2</b>	Identify opportunities to 'green' the Council's property estate, looking to find appropriate sites to deploy green infrastructure.	No previous ground maintenance projects	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Parks and Open Spaces Manager <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Town Centre & Cultural Services	2025/2026 and ongoing	 £ £ (Capital Budget)	The Council is prioritising opportunities to integrate green infrastructure across its property estate, with a focus on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Hazells Farm is being used as a learning exercise to refine and formalise the application of BNG principles. While the UK's BNG infrastructure is still developing and the market size remains uncertain, the Council is positioning itself as an early adopter to capitalise on future opportunities. This work supports the Council's commitment to sustainability, biodiversity, and exploring innovative ways to enhance its estate for environmental and community benefit.




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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer Updates
	<b>2.9.3</b>	Undertake a series of green infrastructure pilot programmes in the borough to demonstrate the positive impact that greening has on urban landscapes	No previous pilot programmes	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Parks and Open Spaces Manager <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Town Centre & Cultural Services	Q1 2024/2025	 £ £ (Capital Budget)	<p>The Council is delivering a series of green infrastructure pilot programmes to demonstrate the positive impact of greening on urban landscapes. Masterplans have been created for The Warren, Northfleet Urban Country Park, and The Dell, with various activities underway to enhance wildlife habitats and promote these spaces as locations for communities to interact with nature.</p> <p>Plans are being finalised for Camer Park and West Park, with the aspiration for their inclusion as part of the North Kent Woods &amp; Downs National Nature Reserve (NNR), which is set to launch officially in May 2025.</p> <p>The Green Community Hub has been developed over recent months, offering activities such as crocus and bulb planting, community garden clearing, tree planting, and reed clearance. These initiatives have successfully engaged individuals, volunteers, corporations, and primary schools. Additionally, the Council is developing a deeper understanding of how people use open spaces across the borough and the potential barriers to their engagement. These insights will be compiled into a report to guide future improvements and ensure inclusivity across diverse communities.</p> <p>These efforts emphasize the Council's commitment to enhancing green spaces, fostering biodiversity, and creating opportunities for communities to connect with nature.</p>
	<b>2.9.4</b>	Work with Trees for Cities to identify suitable locations on Council owned land to deliver a carbon offsetting programme to support the delivery of net zero carbon targets on our estates	No previous programme	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Parks and Open Spaces Manager <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Head of Town Centre & Cultural Services	Q1 2024/2025 and ongoing	 £	<p>With the support of North Kent Countryside Partnership (NKCP), the Council is in the final stages of planting an additional 1,000 whips, alongside five drought-resistant Elm trees planted in Camer Park as part of a research initiative.</p> <p>To date, 37 standard trees have been planted, with plans to plant a further nine standard trees generously donated by a borough resident. These efforts reflect the Council's commitment to enhancing green spaces and promoting biodiversity within the community.</p>
	<b>2.9.5</b>	Ensure that included within the employment requirements for newly built council homes that renewable energy, combined heat and power from sustainable sources, and local heat networks are included in the design where appropriate and practical.	New developments were dealt with in isolation and changes in requirements have required further adjustments	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Senior Development Manager	Q2 2022/2023 and then ongoing	 £ £ (Capital Budget)	<p>Construction of 46 new Council homes at St Columba's Close is on target with fabric-first thermal energy efficiency and highly efficient and innovative Kensa ground source heat pump heating as part of the design assessment to meet a higher target than the minimum for Building Regulations.</p>

**KEY:**
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£ £ - Medium - £10,000 - £50,000

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£ £ £ - High - More than £50,000


### Priority 3: GBC - the community leader

		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
3.1	Implement an overarching Communications Strategy to clearly articulate how the council will seek to engage with residents, businesses, partners and communities to encourage and support climate change action across the borough. Linking in with national and local initiatives, develop a programme of activities targeted at increasing awareness of climate change activities within schools.						
	3.1.1	Development of a 'Stay Safe, Shop Local' campaign using EU Welcome Back funding as an ongoing publicity tool in order to reduce carbon footprint through educating and encouraging people to reduce travel to shopping centres.	The first campaign of its type, so no baseline measure is available	Communications Manager	January-March 2022	 £ £ (potential EU funding)	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2022</b>
	3.1.2	Engaging with local schools through various channels to promote and encourage climate change awareness and measures.  Schools are being encouraged to sign up for the national Eco-Schools programme.	No schools in the Borough had completed the Eco-Schools programme	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Communications Team in liaison with relevant council departments	Ongoing	 £	<p>The Waste Projects and Compliance Officer attended Cobham Primary School on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 and spoke to more than 200 students about waste, recycling and litter.</p> <p>Preparations are also being made to put signage up outside all entrances/exits to schools in the borough with anti-littering messaging, via our 'Cleaner, Safer Streets' campaign.</p> <p>As part of the consultation process for the updated climate change strategy, the Council met 'Gravesham Youth Council' on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to talk about climate change, which was attended by 8 students from St George, Mayfield Grammar, and Northfleet School for Girls.</p>
	3.1.3	Working with partners such as Kent Resource Partnership and WRAP to identify and participate in key national campaigns and raise awareness via social media channels		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Communications Team	Ongoing	 £	Over 33,200 items weighing 30.3 tonnes were gathered during the 'Recycle Your Electricals' launch period, achieving national publicity. The Council continues to campaign the project throughout the borough promoting National Recycling Week.
	3.1.4	Use of Your Borough and Your Home magazines to reach all residents with updates and educational material regarding the council's efforts to reach Net Zero and how residents and businesses can contribute.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Communications Team	Ongoing	 £	The Council continued the general promotion of recycling initiatives in autumn/ winter 2024 and spring/ summer editions of Your Borough, including the conversion of the council's fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and the promotion of a new kerbside glass recycling service which has seen an increase in the recycling rates. In Q2 and Q3 of 2024–2025, 758.0 tonnes of glass were recycled, compared to 690.5 tonnes in Q1 and Q2 of 2023–2024, which is an extra 67.5 tonnes (+9.8%) over the previous year.
	3.1.5	Media releases/briefings regarding implementation of key measures (e.g., installation of EV charging points in council-owned car parks).		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Communications Team	Ongoing	 £	Releases were issued and coverage was achieved for the 'Recycle Your Electricals' scheme and conversion of the council's fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO).
	3.1.6	Consideration is being given to parish events regarding the Net Zero programme.	No parish events had previously been held	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Communications Team	Ongoing	 £ £	As part of the consultation exercise, the Council met Parish Councillors on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 to get their suggestions for climate change strategy, to discuss any challenges in terms of their climate change journey and how best the Council and Parishes could work together going forward.


#### KEY:

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
							The council is committed to providing support to Parish Councils and signposting them to our events wherever possible, and Parish Councils have been provided with updated contact information for the council should support or advice on climate actions be required.
	3.1.7	Ensure engagement activities are undertaken with the community as required in line with key projects and directives being undertaken.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Communications Team (to lead on projects with relevant departments)	Ongoing	 £ £	A survey was conducted on the "Go Vocal" platform to gather feedback from residents and businesses as part of the consultation process for the updated climate change strategy.
	3.1.8	Consider the establishment of an action group or forum where residents can come together to share ideas on climate change and behaviours.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager  <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Communications Manager	Ongoing	 £	A survey was conducted on the "Go Vocal" platform to gather feedback from residents and businesses as part of the consultation process for the updated climate change strategy.
3.2	Work with partners to promote and deliver initiatives to enable local residents to improve the efficiency of their homes. Inform and support local residents to reduce their own energy usage and consider renewable energy sources.						
	3.2.1	Active engagement in Phase Two of the Solar Together Scheme	Phase 1 had 25 registrations with 2 progressing to installation	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Director (Corporate Services) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Communications Manager Climate Action Delivery Manager	January 2022 to October 2022	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>
	3.2.2	Active engagement in Phase Three of the Solar Together Scheme.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Communications Manager	March 2023 to June 2024		<b>Completed -&gt; June 2024</b>
	3.2.3	Active engagement in Phase Four of the Solar Together Scheme.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Communications	Ongoing	 £	Solar Together Phase Four Spring Auction has been concluded but the Autumn Auction is still in progress. <b>Spring Statistics</b> A total of 165 panels and 13 batteries were installed, resulting in an estimated reduction of 15,378 kg of carbon annually and 384 tonnes






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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
				Manager			over a 25-year period. <b>Autumn Statistics</b> Out of the 29 residents who accepted their quotes, five installations have been completed so far. The Council continues to participate in the scheme for the fourth year, Solar Together Phase Five will be open for registration on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 - <a href="https://solartogether.co.uk/gravesham/home">https://solartogether.co.uk/gravesham/home</a>
	3.2.4	Working with other partners in Kent to actively deliver initiatives in line with the Kent & Medway Low Emission Strategy, which meets the needs of Gravesham residents.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager	Ongoing	 £	The Council works with colleagues from other public sector organisations in Kent as part of the Kent and Medway Environment Group and the Kent Climate Change Network to share best practices and identify common areas of interest for collaborative working.
	3.2.5	Actively engaging with organisations such as the Greater Southeast Energy Hub to bring forward initiatives intended to improve efficiency in domestic properties.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager	Ongoing	 £	Council Officers are actively attending meetings/ sessions/ webinars and sharing learning and funding opportunities as and when these are identified with relevant teams.
	3.2.6	In line with the Communications Strategy, ensure regular updates to residents to assist them in reducing their own energy usage and renewable energy options.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Communications Manager	Ongoing	 £	The Council continues to update residents with available schemes, grants, energy-saving advice and more through our website, newsletters and social media platforms.
3.3	Work with partners to enable and support local businesses to decarbonise their premises and processes.						
	3.3.1	Work with businesses to identify funding opportunities to support improvements to energy efficiency within their business.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Senior Economic Development Officer	Ongoing	 £	The proposed Lower Thames Crossing remains a designated pathfinder project to explore carbon-neutral construction. Should the scheme proceed, it will benefit local businesses through supply chain opportunities and upskilling to meet net-zero challenges. The scheme also includes a local labour target, to minimise travel to work. The Council continues to develop and add sources of funding and other assistance for businesses to the following web page: <a href="#">Business journey to Net Zero – Gravesham Borough Council</a>
	3.3.2	Work with the biggest emitters in the borough (as identified by BEIS) to encourage and support them in their decarbonisation plans.	<b>TBC post business engagement</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Senior Economic Development Officer	Ongoing	 £	Officers continue to promote events and schemes of advice and financial assistance to businesses, via appropriate digital channels. Council officers will be supporting partnership development, including via the Thames Estuary Partnership and other prospective partners undertaking decarbonisation-related work such as Innovate UK and their 'Net Zero Go' tool (especially where this might require a novel approach and/or external funding need). The Council has granted a planning approval for a green hydrogen boiler to serve the needs of a key employer, Kimberly Clark's manufacturing facility in Northfleet.

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
							<a href="http://northfleet-greenhydrogen.co.uk">northfleet-greenhydrogen.co.uk</a>
	3.3.3	A green / carbon reduction business award. To help identify local firms providing low-carbon environmental goods and services and/or successful case studies of businesses reducing operational carbon footprint.	Applications to awards will contribute to establishing a baseline dataset	Lead Officer - Senior Economic Development Officer	November 2025	£ £	Completed -> November 2023
3.4	Implement policy to ensure adequate consideration is given to the impacts on the environment of new development (residential and commercial). Ensure that such developments support sustainable living and transport infrastructure and solutions for cycling, walking and low/zero-emission vehicles.						
	3.4.1	Through the pre-application advice service, encourage applicants to submit policy-compliant schemes which minimise the impacts of new development on the environment.		Lead Officer - Head of Planning	Ongoing	£	Completed -> March 2024
	3.4.2	Ensure that emerging Local Plan policy, to support that in the Core Strategy, is framed with regard to the latest Government guidance, regulation and best practice.		Lead Officer - Head of Planning	Development of Local Plan policy in line with Local Development Scheme	£ £	The Council's Cabinet resolved to adopt a revised Local Development Scheme at the meeting of Cabinet on 24 <sup>th</sup> February, the emerging Local Plan is being produced in line with this revised Local Development Scheme and in accordance with Government requirements and best practice.
	3.4.3	Represent Gravesham at the Kent Climate Change Network Energy Sub-Group with a specific interest in the role a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) may play within the borough local plan to assist with the prediction of future energy demands.		Lead Officer - Head of Planning  Supporting Officer - Career Grade Planner (Planning Policy)	Ongoing	£	The Council have been given access to a UKPN portal that provides further information to assist with the production of an LAEP, with consideration being given by Ofgem at present to how energy consumption/supply should be dealt with at a regional level. The council is actively researching the benefits, costs, and resources required to implement an LAEP.
3.5	Develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the borough, both for resident, business and general public use.						
	3.5.1	Support residents, where it is possible to do so, in the introduction of domestic electric vehicle charging points in individual properties.  (Subject to Government Legislation)		Lead Officer - Climate Action Delivery Manager	Ongoing	£	Solar Together Phase Four launched in 2024 had 1,045 registrations for EV chargers with 119 residents progressing to placing orders and, to date, 48 EV charging points have been installed.
	3.5.2	Explore opportunities for the provision of electric vehicle charging points within GBC-owned assets and implement actions where a sound business case can be provided.	There were no EV charge points installed on council-owned land prior to these	Lead Officer - Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager	Ongoing	£ £	The Council has completed all currently planned installations except for one location which is pending due to legal matters.  The council will continue to identify funding sources and additional sites which may benefit from the installation of EV chargers and analyse data from existing sites to identify expansion where there is a demand.

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
			projects starting				
	3.5.3	Work with other businesses and service providers in the borough to support the provision of EV charging points within their own facilities.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Climate Action Delivery Manager Senior Economic Development Officer	Ongoing	 £	<p>KCC has been successful in its application for just over £12m in LEVI funding. KCC has since gone out to tender to secure a charge point operator partner. The procurement process is likely to run for around 10 months, after which a 6-month mobilisation period will lead to the installation of the year-one location.</p> <p>Over 1,000 potential on-street charger locations have been located across Kent. 68 have been identified for Gravesham. The council is working with KCC to determine the feasibility of these locations, in terms of the road layout/space, current parking restrictions (if any) and the ability to connect to the grid.</p> <p>A page has been added to our website to direct residents to KCC's website where they can nominate their street for consideration for the installation of an EVCP under this scheme - <a href="https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/on-street-ev">https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/on-street-ev</a></p>
	3.5.4	Explore opportunities for the provision of on and off-street electric vehicle charging points for taxis/ private hire vehicles and implement such charging points where it is feasible to do so		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Regulatory Services Manager <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager	Summer 2022	 £ £	<b>Completed -&gt; September 2023</b>
3.6	Encourage active travel through the use of public transport, cycle routes and walking facilities across the borough, promoting the health and climate change benefits for all.						
	3.6.1	Working with Kent County Council to implement and publicise cycle lanes in appropriate locations across the borough.		<b>Lead Officer</b> - Head of Planning <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Communications Team	Ongoing	 £	The Council has been awarded funding to produce a Rural Local Cycling & Walking Implementation Plan (LCWIP), with a view to this work being completed by August 2025. The outcomes of the Istead Rise to Meopham consultation were reported to the Strategic Environment Cabinet Committee on 19 November 2024.

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
	3.6.2	Working with Kent County Council to bring the Mobility as a Service project (MaaS) to residents in the borough (including the Electric Vehicle car club) as an alternative to car ownership		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Parking & Environmental Enforcement Services Manager  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Climate Action Delivery Manager	Until project completion	 £ £	KCC's MaaS partner tender process is now complete, and the selected supplier will receive contracts in the coming weeks. Following contract signing, they will be moving forward with developing the back-office platform and MaaS application and begin interacting with all operators to initiate integrations.  KCC also hired a branding agency to create the MaaS logo and brand guidelines, a behavioural change agency for research, a market research firm for focus groups and surveys, and a creative marketing agency to design and develop a marketing campaign for MaaS before, during, and after launch.
3.7	Work with partners to reduce and manage the impact of climate change impacts through adaptation, mitigation, sustainable flood risk management and promotion of the benefits of green infrastructure.						
	3.7.1	Work with key partners to progress the delivery of the new Fastrack bus lane proposed to be installed alongside the taxi rank and feeder lane in the town centre, which supports a reduction in vehicle emissions.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Regulatory Services Manager	Until project completion	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; August 2024</b>
	3.7.2	Ensure the council, in its formal consultee role, ensures all planning applications and applications for Development Consent Orders, have due consideration to climate change mitigation and adaption such as EV charging points, air quality consideration, traffic management considerations etc.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Head of Planning  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Regulatory Services Manager	Ongoing	 £	A decision on the Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order (DCO) application was expected in September/October 2024, but then on 7 <sup>th</sup> October, the Secretary of State for Transport announced a new date which is 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025. This is to allow the Government more time to consider the application further, including any decisions made as part of the spending review.
	3.7.3	Work with key partners including Environment Agency and KCC and developers, via the Planning System (Local Plan development and Planning Applications), and land managers to ensure that an integrated approach is taken to sustainable flood risk management.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Head of Planning	Ongoing	 £ £	The Planning Service continues to ensure that all forms of flood risk are taken into account as part of the decision and plan-making processes. The Planning Policy team together with the Inclusive Growth team continue to engage with the Environment Agency on strategic flood defence matters.
	3.7.4	Adoption of Air Quality Action Plan		<b>Lead Officer –</b> Environmental Protection Team Leader	Ongoing	 £	In November 2024, the Council adopted an Air Quality Action Plan, a statutory 5-year plan that includes a number of proposed measures to lower emissions and improve the borough's air quality. The plan will be reported to Defra annually in June.
3.8	Review council procurement policies and practices to help mitigate Climate Change. Actively assess major contractors' commitment to achieving net zero by 2050 in the UK and work with these suppliers to improve their performance.						




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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
	3.8.1	Ensure that Climate Change considerations are incorporated into the Council's Procurement Strategy.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Principal Accountant (Special Projects) <b>Supporting Officer-</b> Finance & Procurement Officer	March 2024	 £	<b>Completed -&gt; March 2024</b>
	3.8.2	For contracts over £250,000 per annum, require bidding suppliers to confirm their commitment to working towards net-zero emissions.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Principal Accountant (Special Projects) <b>Supporting Officer-</b> Finance & Procurement Officer	Ongoing	 £	The Council is working with the Kent County Council (KCC) Procurement team which has developed a sustainable procurement toolkit for local authorities which is now ready for testing. Following successful testing, the Council will consider implementing the toolkit for any future procurements where appropriate.
	3.8.3	For construction contracts, seek supplier consideration of low emissions requirements in specifications such as the use of materials, equipment, property, travel and delivery mechanisms.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Principal Accountant (Special Projects) <b>Supporting Officer-</b> Finance & Procurement Officer	Ongoing	 £	The Council is working with the Kent County Council (KCC) Procurement team which has developed a sustainable procurement toolkit for local authorities which is now ready for testing. Following successful testing, the Council will consider implementing the toolkit for any future procurements where appropriate.
	3.8.4	In accordance with Policy Procedure Note 06/21, ensure that all council procurements over £5m per annum (excl. VAT) require the bidding suppliers to provide a Carbon Reduction Plan.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Principal Accountant (Special Projects) <b>Supporting Officer-</b> Finance & Procurement Officer	Ongoing	 £	The Council is working with the Kent County Council (KCC) Procurement team which has developed a sustainable procurement toolkit for local authorities which is now ready for testing. Following successful testing, the Council will consider implementing the toolkit for any future procurements where appropriate.
	3.8.5	Actively work with strategic and/or significant suppliers to support improvement in their performance.		<b>Lead Officer -</b> Principal Accountant (Special Projects) <b>Supporting Officer-</b> Finance & Procurement Officer	Ongoing	 £	The Council is working with the Kent County Council (KCC) procurement team, which is currently developing supplier training to support suppliers overcome barriers such as understanding how to respond to a sustainability question and how to improve their operations in terms of energy efficiency, sustainability and carbon reduction targets.
3.9	Continue to develop innovative and sustainable waste management solutions and opportunities for waste recycling and disposal.						




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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
	3.9.1	Ensure that all properties across the borough have suitable recycling facilities	PI8 & PI9 Tonnages	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Assistant Director (Operations)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Waste Projects and Compliance Officer	Q4 2022/23	 £ £	<p>The Council continues to work to deliver a full recycling service to all flats and narrow access properties in the borough ahead of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 deadline for domestic properties. To date, the managing agents of more than 150 flatted developments in the borough have been contacted with information about how to become compliant ahead of the deadline. Currently, 62.8% of flats now have dry mixed recycling collections.</p> <p>The Council also continues to work to deliver a full commercial waste recycling and food waste collection service to our business customers ahead of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025 deadline. Our commercial waste dry recycling has yielded 4.3 tonnes in the first month and with the launch of the new service, we anticipate seeing this number rise over the upcoming months.</p>
	3.9.2	Public education to reuse and recycle in the correct way	PI8 Pledge2Recycle Plastics Survey	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Assistant Director (Operations)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Waste Projects and Compliance Officer	Ongoing	 £	<p>From July to December 2024, 433.4 tonnes of glass bottles and jars were recycled using their clear sacks and kerbside recycling bins since it was announced that glass could be recycled. A total of 758 tonnes of glass bottles and jars were recycled, including an extra 324.6 tonnes through bring-banks.</p> <p>Recycling collected in Quarter 1 &amp; Quarter 3 was 520.8 tonnes higher than the same period in 2023, an increase of 11.7%. Concurrently, residual waste per household collected per household decreased by 19.1 kilograms (-5.3%) per household year-on-year.</p>
	3.9.3	Work within the Kent Resource Partnership to develop new recycling streams and to ensure current waste disposal routes are sustainable	Bulky waste & residual waste tonnages	<b>Lead Officer -</b> Assistant Director (Operations)  <b>Supporting Officer -</b> Waste Projects and Compliance Officer	Ongoing	 £	<p>Our “Recycle Your Electricals” project in partnership with Material Focus came to an end in November 2024. During the project, Gravesham residents and staff donated more than 33,200 small electrical items, weighing in at 30.3 tonnes via the small electrical recycling points. Electrical waste recycling via Pepperhill Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) also increased in the same period.</p> <p>The total small electrical tonnage recycled through Council schemes and the Pepperhill HWRC increased by 29.7%, resulting in a 28.9% (+0.7 kilograms) per capita increase compared to the four-year pre-campaign average. This also equates to an additional 1.5 kilograms per household.</p> <p>The total tonnage of electrical waste recycled increased by 26.4% during the project, or an additional 0.8 kilograms per capita compared to the four-year pre-campaign average. This also equates to an additional 1.8 kilograms per household.</p> <p>Although the 12-month project has concluded, the small electrical bring</p>

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		Specific Action	Baseline performance	Owner	Timescale	Resource	Officer updates
							banks will remain in place for residents to continue to recycle their electricals.
	3.9.4	Work with 'third sector' partners to develop new reuse options.	Bulky waste & residual waste tonnages	<b>Lead Officer</b> - Assistant Director (Operations) <b>Supporting Officer</b> - Waste Projects and Compliance Officer	Ongoing	 £	Officers are working with the Gravesham Repair Cafe to promote their events by stickering the small electrical bins in order to encourage the repair of faulty items and minimise waste.  Freegle stats - Between January 2022 and February 2025, 32.6 tonnes were re-used, and 16.6 tonnes of CO2 was saved, with an average of 810 kg re-used monthly.

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**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

### Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Climate Change Advisory Board

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Reporting officer:** Nicole Arthur, Head of Housing Assets  
Bal Chattha, Building Safety & Investment Manager  
Finley Treadwell, Assistant Surveyor

**Subject:** Energy & Sustainability Team 2024/25 Progress

#### Purpose and summary of the report:

This report provides an update on the Housing Energy & Sustainability team's progress for the 2024-25 period.

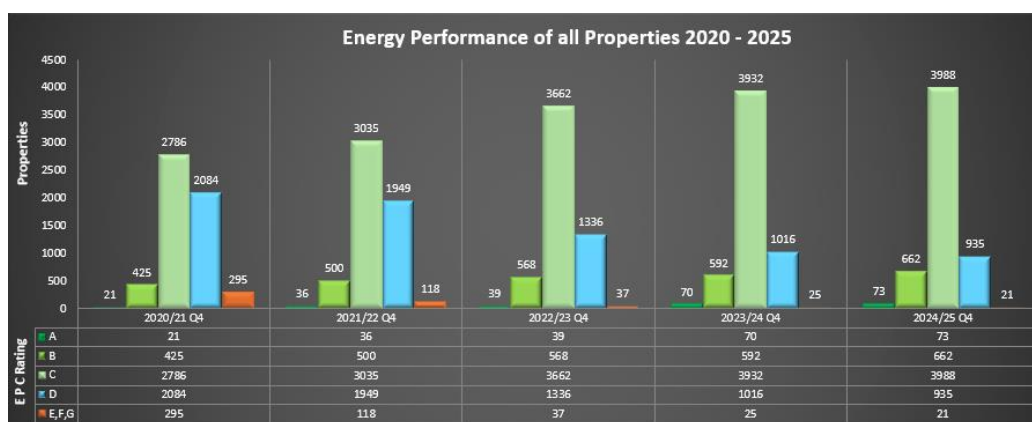
#### Recommendations:

For the contents of the report to be noted.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
<b>Legal</b>	The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) confirmed landlords will have to meet an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of Band C by 2030.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	C940/C0031 Energy Efficiency Measures
<b>Balancing the Budget</b>	a. Does this report form part of the balancing the budget delivery plan? No
	b. If yes to question a, when will the projected savings be recognised in the budget? N/A
	c. If no to question a, should it form part of the plan? No
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	This report relates to Corporate Objective 02 - #ONECOMMUNITY
<b>Climate Change</b>	The work discussed within the report contributes to the Council's Climate Change Strategy by: (a) Reducing carbon emissions of our housing stock (b) Reduction in energy consumption and fuel bills for our tenants (c) Providing warmer energy efficient homes for our tenants

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) confirmed landlords must meet an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of Band C by 2030.
- 1.2 Gravesham Borough Council's Climate Strategy sets out our approach and commitment to reducing carbon emissions throughout its housing stock on our journey to become carbon net zero.
- 1.3 In 2020/21, Gravesham Borough Council had 2379 properties in EPC bands D or below, equating to 42% of our stock not meeting the DESNZ target. This number has been significantly reduced, and we now only have 956 properties in EPC bands D or below, meaning 83% of our stock meets the government target. As a result, our housing stock carbon emissions have decreased by 3,912 tonnes (28.57%).



- 1.4 Gravesham Borough Council has been ranked in the top 10 for our average EPC energy efficiency score for social housing by Uswitch Energy, with a score of 73.6
- 1.5 The Energy & Sustainability team has been shortlisted for the MJ Achievement Awards 2025 event for our leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency category.

## 2. Fabric Insulation Improvements

- 2.1 Gravesham Borough Council have completed fabric insulation improvements to 270 properties during the 2024/25 period. This specifically focused on enhancing the thermal performance of our houses through cavity wall and loft insulation, not only making residents' homes warmer in the winter months but also cooler in summer.
- 2.2 As a result of the additional insulation, an estimated 167 tCO<sub>2</sub> will be saved annually, whilst improving the building's energy performance. This will reduce the residents' fuel bills and the likelihood of damp and mould, whilst improving their comfort and air quality.
- 2.3 Statistics from the Energy Saving Trust showcase that the installation of cavity wall insulation (CWI) could save each resident £395 a year, and loft insulation (LI) could save £480.
- 2.4 Following the completion of the improvements, Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) were completed to all 270 properties. This documented the improvements

and updated our Parity Portfolio programme which we use to manage our housing stock's energy performance.

- 2.5 A further 129 Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) were completed for properties that underwent works as part of the planned programmes, such as boiler replacements and window upgrades.

### 3. Cleveland House

- 3.1 Cleveland House was identified for a heating system upgrade as the average boiler renewal date was 2026. Reviewing all options, Ground Source Heat Pumps were the most suitable option based on the dwellings, long-term cost modelling and resident benefit. Additionally, the installation of a solar PV system to each dwelling and the communal area was included in the proposal.



- 3.2 The total project cost is £1.1 million, and all properties should meet an EPC A rating and be assessed at net zero. This follows the positive outcome from the installation of the Ground Source Heating and Solar PV systems to Springvale Court during 2023/24.
- 3.3 This aims to reduce our carbon footprint and the residents' fuel bills, whilst enhancing the building's overall sustainability and efficiency. Statistics from the Energy Saving Trust estimate a £385 reduction in each resident's fuel bills, and feedback from Springvale Court showcased residents paying as little as 80p per day on fuel bills.
- 3.4 Work commenced in July 2024 to install the Ground Source Heating system at Cleveland House, and all external work is complete, along with riser pipework to all flats. However, in September 2024, the environmental agency introduced permitting requirements specifically for Ground Source Heat Pump installations located in Source Protection Zone 1 areas.

- 3.5 Unfortunately, Cleveland House is within this boundary. This signifies that any water located beneath the site will take 50 days or less to be processed and come out of a dwelling's water outlet.
- 3.6 A permit application was submitted in October 2024 by Kensa, the Ground Source Heat Pump manufacturer and installer, and we are awaiting approval from the Local Environmental Agency. Initial positive feedback has been received; however, they have requested further modelling surveys which Kensa have completed and sent for approval.
- 3.7 As a result, we are unable to commission any system, so the existing boilers have not been removed in order to continue to provide heating.
- 3.8 Nonetheless, the solar PV installation will be completed by mid-2025 together with an EV Charger. Each dwelling has its own separate array, as well as the communal area to generate free electricity and reduce fuel bills for the residents and Gravesham Borough Council.

#### **4. Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3**

- 4.1 DESNZ released guidance for Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave 3 (WH: SHF Wave 3) in September 2024, committing £1.29 billion across three years. Unlike previous Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) schemes which primarily focused on improving the fabric of the building with loft, cavity and external wall insulation measures, WH: SHF Wave 3 focuses on the installation of low-carbon heating.
- 4.2 This included a Low Carbon Heating incentive, providing increased grant funding for the installation of these systems. 10% of homes in an application are eligible for a £20,000 grant fund per home, which requires no co-funding. There is an additional £7,500 of grant funding available for each property if Low Carbon Heating is installed in homes off the gas grid.
- 4.3 The Energy & Sustainability team submitted a bid in November 2024 to carry out Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) and Solar PV installations to 300 properties. However, DESNZ warned all participants in February 2025 that due to an oversubscription of the funding, housing providers may not receive the funding they expect, but each scheme will be allocated a minimum of 40%.
- 4.4 In March 2025, we received news that we had been successful and would receive 68% of the funding which we requested. Consequently, the project was reduced from 300 properties to 240.



- 4.5 Completion of these works will result in all 240 properties migrating from an EPC D or E to an EPC B rating, which will increase the Council's EPC C and above-rated properties from 83% to 86% and will result in an estimated annual carbon saving of 324.87 tCO<sub>2</sub>.
- 4.6 The total project cost is £4.7 million across three years, and we have been allocated £2.1 million of grant funding. The remaining £2.6 million will be funded from the Housing Energy & Sustainability budget.
- 4.7 According to statistics from the Energy Saving Trust, the installation of an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) and Solar PV to each dwelling could save residents £432 annually.

## **5. Communal Solar PV**

- 5.1 Carl Ekman House and Chantry Court were identified as two of Gravesham Borough Council's highest electricity consumers, generating high fuel bills. In 2022, the Energy & Sustainability Team installed solar panels and a battery system at both Carl Ekman House and Chantry Court to generate free electricity and combat this issue.





- 5.2 Monitoring software was installed on both high-rise buildings and highlights an average of 49.09% of electricity generated by these solar panels is consumed, with the remaining 50.91% being imported from the electricity grid. This equates to a considerable fuel bill saving, whilst creating a sustainable building.
- 5.3 We are currently exploring the opportunity to increase the battery storage for sites with a communal solar panel array to reduce the electricity imported from the grid and to increase the building's energy efficiency.
- 5.4 As outlined in section 4, a communal solar panel and battery storage system will be installed at Cleveland House. This will assist in providing electricity for the Electric Vehicle Charger (EVC), along with the communal ground source heating system and wider electrical usage such as the passenger lift.
- 5.5 A Building Safety Regulator (BSR) application was submitted in March 2025 to renew the roof at The Hive and install solar panels and a battery system following the removal of the telecommunications provider. We are currently awaiting a response from building control, however, this plans to reduce the council's fuel bills and lower our carbon emissions.

## 6. EndoTherm

- 6.1 This is an energy-saving and carbon emissions reduction additive that can be added to wet central heating systems, proven to save up to 15% on space heating energy consumption by improving heat transfer efficiency.
- 6.2 It will be implemented by our existing Gas Servicing and Maintenance contractor, Sureserve South Compliance, to all 5,389 properties with gas central heating, on each property's next scheduled boiler service.
- 6.3 Statistics estimate that this will save residents a total of £5,050,000 over 10 years, meaning each resident will save £93.71 each year on their fuel bills.
- 6.4 Although this will not be recognised on an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), this will save an estimated total of 14,900 tCO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

- 6.5 This is fully funded via the carbon saving of using the product in each domestic heating system, and it is monetised by carbon credits.

## **7. Energy Performance Reform Consultation**

- 7.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) released a consultation to reform the Energy Performance of Buildings regime on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- 7.2 This proposed changes to the metrics used on EPCs to provide a more complete representation of the building's energy performance. The current system uses a single metric rating; however, the consultation suggests using four headline metrics. This will focus on the building's fabric performance, heating system, smart readiness, and energy cost.
- 7.3 It is also proposed that the validity period of EPCs be reduced from 10 years, however, they have not suggested what the new validity period will be. This is to regularly update the energy performance rating of the building, recognising any changes that have happened since the last EPC was completed.
- 7.4 Discussions with Parity, our energy performance portfolio provider confirm there are no expected changes to the ratings of the EPCs; it is only to display more information about the property on the certificate for the end user.
- 7.5 It is anticipated that any changes to the EPC metrics will be introduced in the second half of 2026.

## **8. Hard to Treat Properties**

- 8.1 The Council currently has 176 'hard to treat properties' rated EPC D or below. This is due to the dwelling's construction type, such as solid wall, timber frame or system built. Consequently, these properties have a much higher heat loss ratio, increasing the likelihood of damp and mould and higher fuel bills, as well as the risk of being deemed 'Non-Decent'. Simpler measures like loft insulation will not achieve an EPC C rating, meaning the Energy & Sustainability team must look at alternative, more costly options.
- 8.2 This is a significant piece of work, and each property will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis as to whether it is even possible to do so. An option appraisal will be undertaken on each property to look at the level of investment required to ensure that it continues to meet the desired standard for letting purposes when compared to the potential future rental stream for the property.

## **9. Appendices**

- 9.1 There are no appendices

## **10. Background Documents**

- 10.1 There are no background documents.

**Lead Officer:** Nicole Arthur, Head of Housing Assets

**Email:** nicole.arthur@gravesham.gov.uk

Secondary Implications	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<p>What are the risks associated with the content of this report?</p> <p>For information only report</p>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, you should complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment and/or seek advice from the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>Does the content of this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against those with a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Gender reassignment</li> <li>• Marriage and civil partnership</li> <li>• Pregnancy and maternity</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Religion or belief</li> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Sexual orientation</li> </ul> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, you need to complete an equality impact assessment</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered</i></p>
<b>Other Considerations</b>	<p>How will the content of report support or affect the following:</p> <p>Socio-economic impact: N/A</p> <p>Crime and Disorder: N/A</p> <p>Safeguarding Children &amp; Adults: N/A</p>
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement:</b>	<p>Has there been any consultation or engagement, including future planned consultation/engagement, in relation to this paper?</p> <p>No</p>



	Please liaise with the Community Involvement team for assistance if required. <a href="mailto:community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk">community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Involvement of other services</b>	Have any other departments been involved or engaged with during the creation of the report: No

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**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

### Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Climate Change Advisory Board

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Reporting officer:** Climate Action Delivery Manager (Corporate Services)

**Subject:** Proposed Revised Climate Change Strategy

#### Purpose and summary of report:

To present Members of the Climate Change Advisory Board with a draft revised Climate Change Strategy for the council, prior to its consideration by Full Council.

#### Recommendations:

Members of the Climate Change Advisory Board endorse the draft revised Climate Change Strategy for the council and provide delegated authority for any further updates to be made, in consultation with the Leader of the Executive, prior to submission to Full Council for formal approval and adoption.

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
<b>Legal</b>	The Strategy is intended to demonstrate the council's commitment to supporting the UK Government carbon reduction targets.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	The council has established a Climate Change Reserve which currently stands at £369,480 and can be deployed to fund actions under the Climate Change Strategy.
<b>Balancing the Budget</b>	a. Does this report form part of the balancing the budget delivery plan? N/A
	b. If yes to question a, when will the projected savings be recognised in the budget? N/A
	c. If no to question a, should it form part of the plan? N/A
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	<p><b>One Council:</b> a well-run and innovative authority, defined by its skilled and valued workforce, committed to developing its local social impact.</p> <p><b>Climate Action:</b> as a socially responsible and carbon literate council, deliver on our corporate climate pledge for net zero by 2030.</p> <p>It will be necessary to review the Corporate Plan Commitment if the revised strategy is adopted.</p>

<b>Climate Change</b>	The decision taken in this report will directly influence the strategic Climate Change activity undertaken by this council.
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2024, the Cabinet considered a report reflecting the achievements of the council and the borough in delivering carbon reduction initiatives since declaring the Climate emergency in 2019. The report also recognised the increasing challenges in delivering the council's target for decarbonising its own operations and the limited impact this will have on wider borough emissions, highlighting the opportunity to refocus resources and efforts on wider climate actions and their co-benefits to further the interests of the borough as a whole. Consequently, approval was given to develop a new Climate Strategy for the Council.
- 1.2 A consultation exercise was planned to connect with our community to get their feedback and suggestions.
- 1.3 Collectively, this material formed one of the crucial parts of the evidence base to be used in developing the council's new Climate Change Strategy.

## 2. Process

- 2.1 The consultation process commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and ran for 15 weeks. As a corporate exercise, the project was positively and proactively supported by a range of teams and officers across the council.
- 2.2 The consultation process involved connecting with residents and businesses through online surveys to get their suggestions and feedback. The online survey was developed and hosted on the ['Go Vocal' platform](#) which was live from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and ended on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- 2.3 This survey was supplemented with an in-person meeting with 'Gravesham Youth Council' on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and Parish Councillors on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
- 2.4 Although the formal consultation began in November, opportunity was also taken to collect feedback on climate-related issues at The Big Conversation event hosted at Wombwell Park on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- 2.5 To help advertise the opportunity to participate in the process, the survey was promoted and shared with staff, via the council's social media platforms, through Parish Councils, community groups and networks. A total of 47 people participated in the consultation process.
  - 22 responses from the online survey
  - In-person meeting with 8 students from Gravesham Youth Council
  - In-person meeting with 5 Parish Councillors
  - 12 responses from the attendees at Wombwell Park event
- 2.6 Below are the other sources of information used to develop the new strategy:

- DESNZ data
- Climate Change Risk Register
- Kent Community Risk Register
- Carbon Budgets
- Met Office Data
- Other council Strategies and Policies:
  - Air Quality Action Plan
  - Biodiversity First Consideration Report
  - Emerging local plan

## 3. Consultation Results

Below are the key themes that emerged from the consultation activity undertaken

- Transport & Movement - improving public transport & cycling infrastructure, reducing car use, walking & cycling more
- Reduce waste and recycle more
- Reducing energy consumption
- Businesses to create net zero plans
- Sustainable diet & growing produce locally
- Circular economy
- Awareness of carbon footprint
- Facilitate grants and incentives
- Repair cafes
- Planting more trees

3.1 Responses from the participants during the consultation process have been detailed in Appendix One.

3.2 The consultation responses were taken into account along with the other evidence while preparing the draft strategy which is detailed in Appendix Two.

## 4. Next steps

4.1 Following consideration by the Climate Change Cabinet Committee, the draft strategy will be presented to the Full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> April for approval and adoption.

4.2 On approval from Full Council, the draft strategy will be shared on the 'Go Vocal' platform for final feedback from residents.

4.3 A new delivery plan will be developed to support our updated climate change strategy through collaborating with climate change working group officers.

4.4 The final strategy and delivery plan will be available for publication.

## 5. Appendices

Appendix One: Consultation Response

Appendix Two: Draft Climate Change Strategy: 2025-2030

## 6. Background papers

The below links have been used while preparing the draft strategy

- [What Is Climate Change? | United Nations](#)
- [State of the Global Climate 2024](#)
- [Monthly atmospheric CO2 concentration 2025 | Statista](#)
- [Effects of climate change - Met Office](#)
- [What will climate change look like in your area? - BBC News](#)
- <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-seventh-carbon-budget/>
- <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/>
- [The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#)
- [The Kent Community Risk Register](#)

**Lead Officer:** Saida Shaikh, Climate Action Delivery Manager

**Email:** [saida.shaikh@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:saida.shaikh@gravesham.gov.uk)

Secondary Implications	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<p>What are the risks associated with the content of this report?</p> <p>There are no specific risks associated with the details contained within the Draft Climate Change Strategy. It will be necessary, however, for both officers and Members are to consider any risks that may be associated with proposed draft strategy to ensure these are fully considered prior to publication.</p>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p>
	<p>Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, you should complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment and/or seek advice from the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>.</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>Does the content of this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against those with a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age</li> <li>• Disability</li> <li>• Gender reassignment</li> <li>• Marriage and civil partnership</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy and maternity</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Religion or belief</li> <li>• Sex</li> <li>• Sexual orientation</li> </ul> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, you need to complete an equality impact assessment</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered.</i></p>
<b>Other Considerations</b>	<p>How will the content of report support or affect the following:</p> <p>Socio-economic impact: There are no socio-economic implications resulting from this report.</p> <p>Crime and Disorder: There are no crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.</p> <p>Safeguarding Children &amp; Adults: There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults implications resulting from this report.</p>
<b>Consultation &amp; Engagement:</b>	<p>Has there been any consultation or engagement, including future planned consultation/engagement, in relation to this paper?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Please liaise with the Community Involvement team for assistance if required.  <a href="mailto:community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk">community.involvement@gravesham.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Involvement of other services</b>	<p>Due to the corporate responsibility around the delivery of the council's climate action, various services have contributed to the preparation of this report, as detailed in Appendix Two – Draft Climate Change Strategy: 2025-2030</p>

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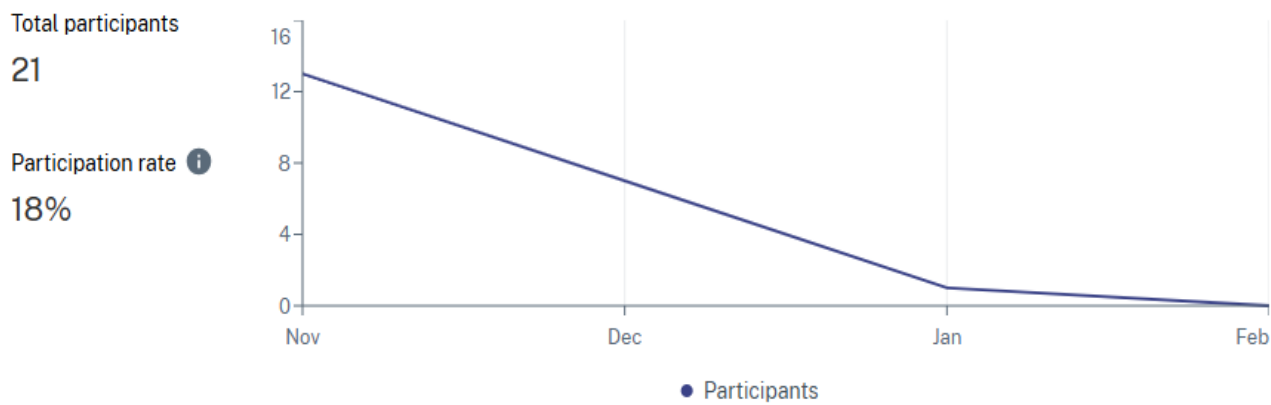
# **Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030: Consultation response**

# 1. Online Survey

## 1.1 Climate Change Resident Survey

**Summary:** A resident survey was open to the public to gather their feedback/suggestions about climate change, which would help build our new strategy. Responses from the 21 participants who took part in this survey are shown below.

Participants timeline



Traffic sources



## Survey Questionnaire and Responses

1. How concerned, if at all, are you about current climate change, sometimes referred to as ‘global warming’?

Very concerned	Fairly concerned	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	I don’t know	Prefer not to say
76%	19%	5%	0%	0%	0%

2. Do you feel well-informed about Climate Change?

Very well informed	Somewhat informed	Not particularly informed	Not at all informed
24%	67%	9%	0%

3. In your view, how much do each of the following sectors contribute to Gravesham's carbon emissions?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	A little	Not very much	Not at all	I don't know	Prefer not to say
<b>Transport</b> (e.g. Cars, vans, buses, trains, ships)	38%	48%	5%	0%	0%	9%	0%
<b>Heating and cooling</b> homes and commercial building	38%	43%	14%	0%	0%	5%	0%
<b>Electricity usage</b> in homes and commercial buildings	14%	52%	29%	0%	0%	5%	0%
<b>Industries</b> that manufacture and produce goods	43%	43%	0%	9%	0%	5%	0%
<b>Agriculture</b> (e.g. crops, livestock, farm machinery)	19%	33%	29%	14%	0%	5%	0%
<b>Disposal of waste</b> (e.g. food waste, commercial and household waste)	29%	48%	14%	9%	0%	0%	0%

4. What changes will we need to consider to our everyday lives to address climate change?

Participants response	Summary
How we get around	Respondents emphasise the need for changes in transportation, suggesting a reduction in car use and an increase in low-carbon and public transport options.
Low carbon and public transport, change to low carbon home heating, change to lower carbon intensive diets ( less meat ), lower consumption of disposable items, accepting paying the true cost of high environmental impact products and services and supporting the move to a circular economy with more effective recycling. More community-led support for a just transition	There's a call for less reliance on non-recyclable packaging and a shift towards more sustainable diets, particularly eating less meat.
Non-recyclable packaging, transport, diet, heating and energy consumption	Energy consumption is also a concern, with suggestions to use less fuel for heating and to transition to low-carbon home heating systems.
The problem apparently is the riches people with large carbon footprints	Recycling more effectively and reducing overall waste are common themes, as is the idea of creating more green spaces.

Buy less goods that end up in landfill and repair what we already have.	Some responses point to the importance of addressing the carbon footprint of the wealthiest individuals and the need for systemic changes rather than treating climate action as an opinion poll.
<p>The answers to the questions posed in your survey are already well known. The impacts of transport, heating, electricity use and agriculture on climate are documented. The first challenge is to stop treating the priorities for change as an opinion poll.</p> <p>We will all need to change the way we travel, heat and insulate our homes, consume energy and our diets to address climate change.</p> <p>Recycling a few more plastic items, small electricals and schemes to offer solar power discounts seem to be all the public are being asked to do.</p> <p>At the same time town centre workers are offered discounts on car parking and councillors campaign openly against schemes to make walking, wheeling and cycling safer in the borough.</p>	The concept of a circular economy and paying the true cost for environmentally impactful products is also mentioned, alongside community-led support for a just transition.
Cost, availability	There's a call for reduced consumption, repairing goods instead of discarding them, and thinking more critically about waste disposal.
Drive fewer miles. use less fuel for heating	
Reduced consumption and consideration of waste	
More green spaces	
less waste	
Our carbon footprint	
Using our cars less and recycling more	
Think before we open the bin	
Reducing waste; using renewables	
Use public transport more Increase home insulation Make sure all light bulbs are LED Lower temperature of heating Eat less meat	

5. What role could the Council play in assisting your efforts to reduce your carbon footprint?

Participants response	Summary
Increase kerbside recycling options (thank you for adding glass), increase local recycling options (thank you for small electricals). Publish "Solar Together" success stories - "we were sceptical but we've saved £s".	Respondents are looking for the Council to play a supportive role in reducing their carbon footprint through various means. The most frequently mentioned areas include improving public transport and cycling infrastructure and enhancing local recycling options
Tell me how to calculate my carbon footprint, would be a start	There is also a call for educational initiatives to help residents understand their carbon footprint and how to reduce it
Working with other local services to improve transport, also working with companies like PLA to reduce river traffic emissions	Several respondents suggested that the Council could facilitate the installation of solar panels and provide grants or incentives for home insulation

Increase availability of public transport. Encourage fitting secondary insulation Ensure that newly built homes are fitted with induction hot plats and electric fan ovens and not gas cookers. Ensure newly built homes have air-source heat pumps and solar panels.	There is also a desire for the Council to work with other services to reduce emissions, such as collaborating with PLA on river traffic emissions and liaising with neighbouring councils for more efficient waste management solutions
Lobbying for better public transport and cycling infrastructure, joined-up access to green space, clearer recycling guidelines, support for transition to low carbon heating, more support for community initiatives such as repair cafes and local environmental groups	Other suggestions include promoting initiatives like Repair Cafés, encouraging the growth of fruits and vegetables at home and reducing car use
I'm impressed with the Council's efforts so far. I have a vested interest in Repair Café so anything that promotes/assists that initiative is most welcome. Thank You for what you already do however.	Overall, there is a clear demand for the Council to provide guidance, support, and infrastructure improvements to help individuals contribute to the fight against climate change.
Education	
Offer more detailed recycling	
Encourage better public transport	
Funnelling incentives that reduce personal carbon like trusted boiler replacement, insulation and off grid localised electricity generation	
Create a scheme to install solar panels on my roof (I own my home) and use the surplus for council schemes.	
Guidance	
reduce car use	
Grants for insulating houses and planting more trees in the streets	
educate people	
Liaise with Medway Council to allow people from Higham & Shorne to use Cuxton household waste site (as we did for decades until recently). We are now having to use Pepper Hill which is three times as far to go. Thousands of us are having to do this, raising our carbon footprint.	
Invest in public transport and improve sustainability in waste management	
Encourage young people and adult to grow their own fruits and vegetables.	
Awareness raising, waste and recycling, improving Housing efficiency	

6. What else could the Council be doing to reduce the environmental footprint of the Borough?

Participants response	Summary
Plant more trees and plants. Encourage residents/contractors to include biodiversity when turning their front gardens into hard standing whether planning permission is required or not.	Respondents suggest a variety of actions the Council could take to reduce the environmental footprint of the Borough. A recurring theme is the improvement of recycling services
Better recycling services	Many call for the preservation and expansion of green spaces, including planting more trees and plants
Anything	Transport is another key issue, with suggestions to discourage driving and promote public transport, cycling, and walking
Getting all businesses to produce a net zero plan.	Some responses indicate a need for businesses to create net zero plans and for all building developments to meet environmental standards
In 2019 GBC passed a motion declaring a "Climate Emergency". It's still an emergency, an even more urgent one. Stop using language that diminishes this established fact. Stop consulting on what needs to change, the results of an opinion poll won't change the science.  Discourage driving to the town centre and favour public transport (end the town centre workers' parking subsidy, introduce a bus/train users subsidy). Improve the walking, wheeling and cycling environment, allow safe considerate cycling in the town centre, tackle fly parking in the town centre and pavement parking across the borough, reduce speed limits, filter streets,	There are also calls for the Council to reduce its own paperwork, involve residents more in environmental mitigation, promote local growth and gardening

Making everyone aware of the importance of making changes. Continuing to reduce the carbon footprint of Council vehicles and buildings Hold events which share positive information - e.g. to show where a small change can have a positive effect.	Additionally, some suggest the Council should support energy efficiency in homes and businesses, use renewable energy sources and reintroduce the Tilbury ferry service
More effective lobbying against LTC, more effective support for improving energy efficiency of homes and businesses in the borough, advanced enforcement of low energy new build requirements, 100% renewable energy purchase, support for green tech businesses and jobs through Business rates or preferential treatment in developments?	A few responses are less specific, with one simply stating "anything" could be done and another suggesting that the Council should stop consulting and act on the climate emergency
better recycling	
Improved mitigation against what we produce and allowing residents to be involved	
Demolish the Civic Centre due to its carbon footprint.	
Promote more local growth and gardening more green spaces the more you can see the climate the more you will care	
more tree planting	
Keep all the green spaces and add more	
Get the ferry to Tilbury up and running again.	
Perhaps some town centre exhibitions on energy saving plus at the Riverside fair etc. PVC panels and solar panels on GBC buildings including the new Leisure Centre. Could be a 'showroom' for Energy efficient companies in exchange for some low-cost supply and installation of their technology and equipment.	
Ensure all building developments are built to appropriate environmental standards. Bring in speed restrictions on roads.	
Introducing more solar and wind farms. Recycling to reduce the amount of raw materials.	
Reduce their paperwork	

7. How much responsibility do you think each of the following has to help reduce carbon emissions in the borough?

	A lot of responsibility	Some responsibility	No responsibility	I don't know	Prefer not to say
<b>Central Government</b> , by introducing more policies to reduce the level of carbon emissions	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Local Government</b> (Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Parish Councils) by adopting and following associated national policies	<b>76%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Industry and Businesses</b> , by doing more to reduce the level of carbon emissions	<b>71%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>The general public</b> , by making changes to their lifestyles	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>

8. Who do you think should have the main responsibility for tackling climate change?

Government	Big Business	Council	The United Nations	The European Union (EU)	Campaigners and Activists	Faith and Community Leaders	Don't Know	Other
19%	17%	16%	12%	10%	8%	9%	1%	8%

**Participants who selected Others have shared their comments:**

- Everybody should shoulder some of the responsibility and by all of us making a small change it would amount to a big change.
- Everyone
- Individual UK MPs and Councillors - Tackling Climate Change needs non-partisan leadership
- Personal responsibility and education in schools and colleges.
- The problem is so large and multifaceted that all parties have an important role to play in different aspects.
- My top two would be government central and local and big business as they set the framework in which other actions can take place
- This isn't a simple response as is suggested

9. We would like to know more about you, are you happy to share some more information?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

*(If yes, then the below questions will follow)*

1. Do you live in Gravesham?

- ☐ Yes - **13**
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say - **8**

2. Which category best describes the area you live in?

- ☐ Rural (countryside area, outside of a town or city) - **2**
- ☐ Semi-urban (area on the outskirts of a city or town, where it begins to shift into the countryside) - **1**
- ☐ Urban (area wholly within a city or town) – **8**
- ☐ Prefer not to say - **10**

3. You fall under which age groups?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24 years
- ☐ 25-34 years
- ☐ 35-44 years - **1**
- ☐ 45-54 years - **2**
- ☐ 55-64 years - **2**
- ☐ 65+ years - **7**
- ☐ Prefer not to say - **9**

4. Do you identify as:



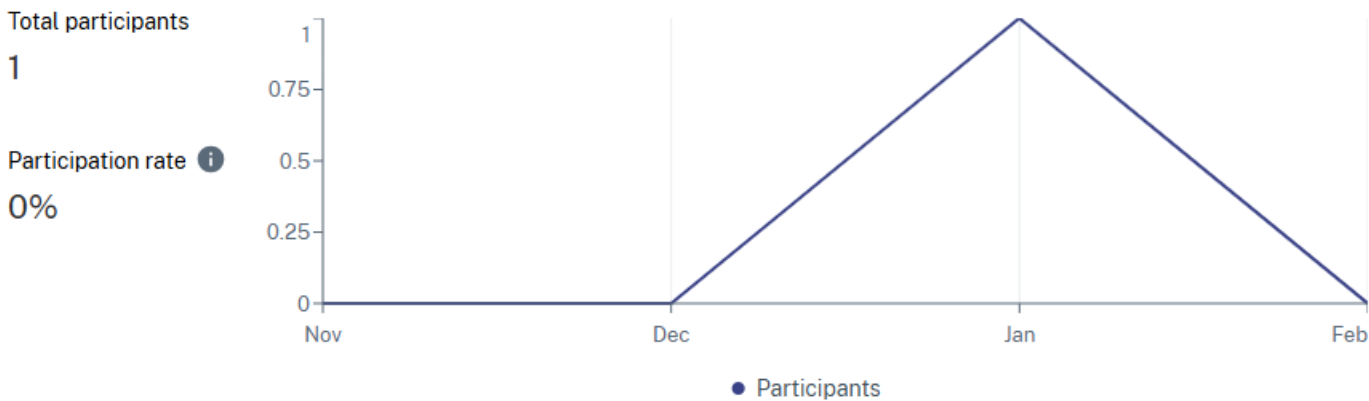
- Male - **8**
- Female - **5**
- Other
- Prefer not to say - **8**

5. How would you describe your ethnic group?
- White British - **12**
  - Asian/Asian British
  - Black/African/Caribbean British
  - Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups
  - Other Ethnic Groups
  - Prefer not to say - **9**

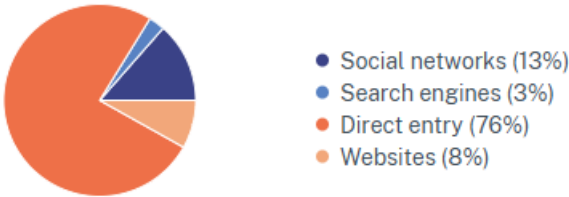
1.2 Climate Change Business Survey

**Summary:** A business survey was open to the public to gather their feedback/suggestions about climate change, which would help build our new strategy. There was 1 participant for this survey whose response has been shared below.

Participants timeline



Traffic sources



Survey Questionnaire and Response

1. Do you understand the carbon footprint of your business?

✓ Yes

- ☐ No

2. What do you consider to be the top contributors to your environmental footprint?

### Printing Resources

3. What steps are you taking to improve your business's environmental footprint?

- ☐ Using renewable energy
- ☒ Improve energy efficiency
- ☒ Reduce electricity/gas/water usage
- ☐ Using sustainable suppliers
- ☒ Waste reduction
- ☒ Recycling
- ☒ Use of Electric Vehicles
- ☒ Encouraging sustainable practices at the workplace
- ☐ Carbon offsetting
- ☐ Others – *Free text*

4. What steps are you considering to improve your business's environmental footprint?

- ☐ Using renewable energy
- ☒ Improve energy efficiency
- ☒ Reduce electricity/gas/water usage
- ☒ Using sustainable suppliers
- ☒ Waste reduction
- ☒ Recycling
- ☐ Use of Electric Vehicles
- ☒ Encouraging sustainable practices at the workplace
- ☐ Carbon offsetting
- ☐ Others – *Free text*

5. What barriers (if any) are preventing you from doing more?

- ☐ Yes  
(If yes, please describe – add a free text)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☒ n/a

6. What role could the Council play in assisting your efforts to reduce your business' environmental footprint?

**Maybe an additional recycling bin, as my business waste goes in with household waste at the moment.**

7. What could the Council be doing to reduce the environmental footprint of the Borough?

**Offer renewable energy options to those living within the Borough. Gravesend sits on a long stretch of tidal river - could this perpetual, independent and clean (not to mention local) energy source not be utilised to reduce the carbon footprint of everyone in the Borough - including the council?**

8. Do your products and services help customers adapt to climate change and if yes, how?
- ☐ Yes  
*(If yes, please describe – add a free text)*
  - ☒ No
  - ☐ Don't know

9. How much responsibility do you think each of the following has to help reduce carbon emissions in the borough?

	A lot of responsibility	Some responsibility	No responsibility	I don't know	Prefer not to say
<b>Central Government</b> , by introducing more policies to reduce the level of carbon emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Local Government</b> (Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Parish Councils) by adopting and following associated national policies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Industry and Businesses</b> , by doing more to reduce the level of carbon emissions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>The general public</b> , by making changes to their lifestyles	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Who do you think should have the main responsibility for tackling climate change?

- ☒ Government
- ☒ The United Nations
  - ☐ The European Union (EU)
- ☒ Council
- ☒ Big business
  - ☐ Campaigners and Activists
  - ☐ Faith and community leaders
  - ☐ Don't know
  - ☐ Others – Free text

11. We would like to know more about you, are you happy to share some more information?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

11.1 Please identify what type of business you are? (You can find out your SIC code through this link - <https://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/>)

- ☐ A: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing - Yes
- ☐ B: Mining and Quarrying
- ☐ C: Manufacturing
- ☐ D: Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply
- ☐ E: Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities
- ☐ F: Construction
- ☐ G: Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair Of Motor Vehicles And Motorcycles
- ☐ H: Transportation and Storage
- ☐ I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities
- ☐ J: Information and Communication
- ☐ K: Financial and Insurance Activities
- ☐ L: Real Estate Activities
- ☐ M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
- ☐ N: Administrative and Support Service Activities
- ☐ O: Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security
- ☒ P: Education
- ☐ Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities
- ☐ R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- ☐ S: Other Service Activities
- ☐ T: Activities of Households as Employers; Undifferentiated Goods-And Services-Producing Activities of Households For Own Use
- ☐ U: Activities of Extraterritorial Organisations and Bodies
- ☐ Others (add a free text for this option)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

11.2 Please advise how many employees you have.

**Those who work with me are self-employed, not employees.**

11.3 Please advise the approximate annual turnover of your business?

- ☒ < £100k
- ☐ £101k - £250k
  - ☐ £251k - £500k
  - ☐ £501k - £1m
  - ☐ £1m - £3m
  - ☐ £3m - £5m
  - ☐ £5m - £10m
  - ☐ £10m+
  - ☐ Prefer not to say

11.4 Are you a member of the Gravesham Business network?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Prefer not to say

## **2. Gravesham Youth Council (GYC) Meeting**

- Council Officer met pupils from Gravesham Youth Council on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 8 students attended the meeting from 3 different schools (St George, Mayfield Grammar and Northfleet School for Girls)
- The meeting was held in the Civic Centre and was more of an interactive session rather than just a question and answer.
- They were asked the below questions while interacting and they responded to a few of the questions, which have been summarised below.

### **Questions:**

- Have you heard of Climate Change? How do you feel about it?
- How do you think climate change will affect you personally?
- Have you taken any action to address climate change?
- Are there actions you want to take to address climate change? What is stopping you from taking this action?
- What are the risks of Climate Change? What will happen if climate change continues?
- What areas should the Council be focusing on?
- What do you think we as a Council can do or can't do?
- What would make a real difference?
- Who do you think is responsible for addressing climate change?
- Do you learn about climate change in school or your community? Are they doing anything to reduce their carbon footprint?

### **Summary:**

- Most of the pupils knew what Climate Change is, but weren't fully aware of the causes, impacts, how to reduce their footprint, etc and in terms of action, they knew about recycling.
- They showed interest in knowing more about Climate Change and were interested in attending workshops if any were planned in the future.
- St. George's school used to have litter picking activity in the past but since their staff changed, it's not happening anymore.
- There is no specific subject on sustainability or climate change in their school
- Students don't have much knowledge or guidance on preventive measures.
- Northfleet School did beach cleaning once
- One of the pupils had a community event where they were cleaning and litter picking post-event.
- Students were very enthusiastic and shared some ideas for recycling.

### **Ideas:**

- Recycle, general waste bin – More pictures on the bins explaining what to recycle would be helpful
- Fun bins in the park for kids – Town centres or parks could have fun bins which would help kids learn about recycling from an early age
- Recycle vending machines in the leisure centre – This could also help generate points or money which can be used to buy other food items from the food vending machine.
- QR code on the bin – One can scan the QR code and it will take them to the website which has recycling tips

### **3. Parish Council Meeting**

- The leader and Council Officers met Parish Councillors on 15<sup>th</sup> January to get their suggestions on the revised Climate Change Strategy and urged them to share our online surveys within their network to get more responses.
- The meeting was attended by Councillors from Meopham Parish Council, Cobham Parish Council, Luddesdown Parish Council, Vigo Parish Council and Higham Parish Council.
- Vigo Parish Council was keen to do more in this area, the rest of the councils haven't started their journey yet but we have offered to help them get started.
- There were a few questions from Councillors regarding the work that has been done so far and they were all answered.
- Council officers offered to them to signpost to energy efficiency schemes and grants.

### **4. Wombwell Park Event**

- Although the formal consultation began in November, we took the opportunity to ask a climate-related question informally to the attendees during one of the open spaces and park life events scheduled last year, i.e. Wombwell Park event on 14<sup>th</sup> August.
- Below was the question asked to the attendees during the event and 12 people responded which is mentioned below.

**Question:** Do you think parks and open spaces contribute to a better environment and responding to climate change. How?

**Responses:**

- more trees
- fresh air in a borough surrounded by major roads is vital
- breaks up concrete jungle, stops surface water flooding
- healthier lifestyle
- more planting
- bug hotels/bird boxes
- planting of wild meadows and animal-friendly areas
- more trees for shade
- more environmentally friendly, planting nature trails for kids, info about wildlife in the area, more like Shorne and Trosley
- could do more regarding climate change, plant more trees in wild areas
- need to look at Shorne Country Park for ideas, they have so much to do there and a lot of it is environmentally/education-based
- having green space is always a bonus but think this area needs some work, more interesting plants for wildlife and insects, maybe some information boards

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# **DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2025-2030**

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## FOREWORD

In 2019, this council declared a climate emergency and set an ambitious target of becoming a net zero borough by 2030 and since then we made a remarkable improvement in Council Assets, fleet vehicles, housing stock, recycling rates and much more.

The challenges to achieving that ambition are many and varied but working with partners, we have already made great strides, while understanding there is still much work to be done.

The most recent data from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) indicate that the council's own carbon emissions, i.e. 1951.56 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for the last financial year (2023-24) only account for around 0.54% of those across the Borough as a whole which is 361 KtCO<sub>2</sub>e. 96% of the Borough's total emissions come from Transport (42%), Domestic properties (32%), Industry(12%) and Commercial(10%)

This revised Climate Change Strategy clearly sets out the science that has identified changing climate patterns both globally and locally, the need for action, and how we will focus our own work and influence that of others to continue to reduce the impact on Gravesham.

No one authority, body, or community can drive change alone.

Our strategy identifies the need for this council to act as an example, be a community leader, and influence the everyday actions of residents, businesses and visitors to help shape a low-carbon home for future generations.

Together, we are already making a difference.

Carbon emissions in Gravesham have dropped by 17.76 % since we focussed our minds on the challenge back in 2019.

That should act as an inspiration to all that despite the challenges, despite the debates, and despite the obstacles, by working together as one community, we can drive change.

Cllr John Burden

Leader

Gravesham Borough Council

## What is Climate Change?

[Climate change](#) refers to long-term changes in temperature and weather. While natural events like volcanic eruptions can cause these changes, human activities, especially burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas, have been the main cause since the 1800s. When these fuels are burned, greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, trapping heat and warming the planet.

The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide and methane. These come from activities like driving cars, heating buildings, cutting down forests, farming, and oil and gas operations. [WMO's State of the Global Climate report](#) confirmed that 2024 was likely the first calendar year to be more than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial era, with a global mean near-surface temperature of  $1.55 \pm 0.13$  °C above the 1850-1900 average. This is the warmest year in the 175-year observational record with [the global average annual concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>](#) in the atmosphere reaching a record high of 424.61ppm (parts per million).

[Data for 2024](#) show that our oceans continued to warm, and sea levels continued to rise. The frozen parts of Earth's surface, known as the cryosphere, are melting at an alarming rate: glaciers continue to retreat, and Antarctic Sea ice reached its second-lowest extent ever recorded.

As the world warms, the UK is likely to have hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters, and more frequent and intense weather extremes according to the [Met Office](#).

Extreme weather events such as heatwaves and heavy downpours could become more frequent and more intense. Many scientists are concerned. "I think it's really frightening," says Dr Lizzie Kendon, a senior Met Office scientist. "It's just a wake-up call really as to what we're talking about here."

Temperatures above 30C for two or more days can trigger a public health warning. In the 1990s, this happened about once every four years for locations in the South. By the 2070s, projections suggest it could be as frequently as four times per year - 16 times more often if we do not curb our emissions.

Specifically for Gravesham,

### **Hottest Day**

From 1991 to 2019, the hottest summer day was **36.1C** and the warmest winter day was **18.3C**. If global average temperatures rise by 2C above pre-industrial levels, the hottest summer day could be **37.9C** and the warmest winter day could be **19C**. If global temperatures rise by 4C, it could be about **42C** and **20.7C** respectively.

### **Summer days**

From 1991 to 2019, there were **5 days** above 25C per month on average. If global temperatures rise by 2C, there could be **10 days**. With a 4C rise, there could be **19 days**.

### **Rainy Days**

From 1991 to 2019, the average monthly rainy days were **8** in summer and **10** in winter. If global average temperatures rise by 2C, this could increase to **7 days** per month, while at a 4C rise, it could be around **5 days** during summer. Similarly, at both 2C and 4C increases, the number of rainy days per month could remain consistent during winter.

### **Wettest Day**

From 1991 to 2019, Gravesham experienced **43mm** of rain on the wettest summer day, which could increase to **44mm** at a 2C rise, and **51mm** at a 4C rise, **18%** more than now. On the wettest winter day, **31mm** of rain fell, which could increase to **33mm** at a 2C rise, and **40mm** at a 4C rise, **29%** more than now.

Source: [What will climate change look like in your area? - BBC News](#)

## Global agreements on climate change

### **The UNFCCC process**

The UNFCCC is the UN process for negotiating a global approach to address climate change. 197 countries plus the European Union are currently party to this process. Negotiations take place through the annual Conference of the Parties (COP). COP21 in 2015 negotiated the Paris Agreement, which is the latest global agreement on climate change mitigation.

**The Paris Agreement:** This set several goals and objectives extending across mitigation, adaptation, and finance, and including:

- A long-term temperature goal of limiting global warming to 'well below 2°C above preindustrial levels' and to 'pursue efforts to' limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- On mitigation, setting three high-level milestones for global GHG emissions: global peaking as soon as possible, rapid reductions thereafter, and achieving a balance between emissions sources and sinks in the second half of this century (Net Zero GHGs).
- On adaptation, establishing a 'global goal for adaptation', with a view to enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. This was further developed through the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience into a set of sectoral and process targets that were agreed upon at COP28.
- On finance, setting out the need to make finance flows consistent with these mitigation and adaptation objectives.

**COP26:** In 2021, COP26 took place in Glasgow with the UK as host and president of the negotiations. Participating nations agreed on the Glasgow Climate Pact, which built on the Paris Agreement by calling on signatories to strengthen commitments to keep 1.5°C in reach, finalising many of the rules underpinning the Agreement's operation and promoting an unprecedented mobilisation of non-state actors (which has continued and grown in the years since).

**Nationally Determined Contributions:** Under the Paris Agreement, countries are required to submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs should set out ambitious targets and plans to reduce emissions in line with the aims of the Agreement.

- The UK set its first NDC to require a reduction in GHG emissions (excluding emissions from international aviation and shipping) of at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.
- In November 2024, the Prime Minister announced that the UK's second NDC would require an at least 81% reduction in GHG emissions by 2035, compared to 1990 levels. Both NDCs have been set in line with the Committee's advice.

**The Global Stocktake:** The Paris Agreement established a five-yearly Global Stocktake to assess progress towards achieving its objectives. The first Global Stocktake concluded at COP28 in 2023 and highlighted significant gaps between current action and what is needed to achieve the Agreement's goals, notably on mitigation.

- Reacting to the latest scientific evidence and political momentum built at COP26 and since, the Global Stocktake placed particular emphasis on the importance of 1.5°C, underscoring that climate impacts would be much less severe than at 2°C, and noting the gap between existing commitments and a 1.5°C consistent trajectory.
- The Global Stocktake set out several global objectives, including:
  - A tripling of global renewable energy capacity and a doubling of the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.
  - Accelerating the phase-down of unabated coal power and transitioning away from fossil fuels, with particular focus on accelerated action this decade.
  - Accelerating reductions in non-CO2 GHG emissions, including in particular methane by 2030.
  - Accelerating deployment of low and zero-emission technologies including zero-emission vehicles, renewables, nuclear, removals, and carbon capture technologies.
  - Phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

**COP29:** In 2024, COP29 took place in Baku, Azerbaijan and produced important agreements on a new climate finance goal and carbon markets.

- A new climate finance goal was agreed, with developed countries committing to take the lead in providing \$300 billion per year to developing countries by 2035 as part of wider efforts to mobilise \$1.3 trillion per year by 2035 from all public and private sources.
- Rules were agreed to operationalise carbon market provisions under the Paris Agreement, paving the way for trading to begin in the coming years.

Source: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-seventh-carbon-budget/>

## Background

In support of the Paris Agreement, the United Kingdom became the first country to declare a climate emergency. In 2019, Gravesham Borough Council declared a climate emergency based on the evidence set out by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC informs governments about the state of knowledge of climate change. It does this by examining all the relevant scientific literature on the subject. This includes the natural, economic and social impacts and risks. It also covers possible response options. Thousands of scientists and other experts volunteer to review the publications. They compile key findings into "Assessment Reports" for policymakers and the general public.

In December 2021, the council set out an ambitious Climate Change Strategy, which sets out the council's approach to not only taking action against its own emissions but also supporting communities in the borough to reduce their emissions and carbon footprint.

The strategy is supported by a detailed Management Delivery Plan, which sets out specific actions that will be taken in order to take specific action where possible and influence behaviours in order to reduce carbon emissions across the borough. The council then established a Climate Change Cabinet Advisory Board to maintain oversight of the Management Delivery Plan. They ensure that the council remains abreast of wider climate change issues, and that appropriate information is made aware to the Cabinet.

## Our Vision and Purpose

Our Climate Change Strategy re-sets the Council's approach prioritising community leadership and involvement. In addition to our ongoing efforts to reduce our own emissions, we must consider how we can support and encourage local climate action and behaviour change among residents, businesses, visitors, and community groups. The Council recognises its crucial role as a community leader to shape its borough through leadership, partnership work, community engagement and unlocking funding where feasible, and sharing ideas and information. It has been estimated through the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) report, that the Council's emissions make up to 0.5% of the Borough's overall emissions and tackling the challenges to achieve the net-zero target cannot be done alone, it requires collective action from all members of our community as everyone has a role to play.

By combining important data, information, and policies, this strategy offers a broad vision for building a low-carbon, sustainable borough and outlines ambitious but doable initiatives. To make sure that every voice in our borough is heard, the new strategy has used an evidence-based approach combined with public consultation and participation.

Being a listening council, we wanted to know what the community at large thought, so we conducted a number of consultation activities. These included meeting with residents at "The Big Conversation event hosted at Wombwell Park," creating online surveys for businesses and residents, and meeting with members of the parish council and the "Gravesham Youth Council" to gather their opinions and give our communities an opportunity to influence and shape the strategy.



Below are the key areas that emerged based on the feedback and responses during the consultation activity

- Transport & Movement - improving public transport & cycling infrastructure, reducing car use, walking & cycling more
- Reduce waste and recycle more
- Reducing energy consumption
- Businesses to create net zero plans
- Sustainable diet & growing produce locally
- Circular economy
- Awareness of carbon footprint
- Facilitate grants and incentives
- Repair cafes
- Planting more trees

This robust and inclusive approach ensures that climate change is consistently at the forefront of all Council decisions, across all service areas, innovating and working together to instil positive behaviour change.

## What have we done so far?

Climate change has been a key priority for the Council since 2019, and over the last five years, the Council has developed and delivered a wide range of projects which have contributed to and supported residents, businesses, communities and schools to undertake their own actions and initiatives to deliver reductions in the borough's carbon emission levels.

Our previous strategy aimed to lower the Council's operational emissions, raise the EPC ratings of its housing stock, and encourage borough partners, residents, and community groups to reduce their carbon footprint.

Since 2018-19, the Council was able to reduce its own operational emissions by 27% and the key factors contributing to this are as follows:

- Introducing energy efficiency measures at the Civic Centre resulted in a decrease in usage by 10.62% (electricity) and 27.41% (gas).
- Converted 15% of the Council's fleet to electric vehicles and installed 18 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) at the Brookvale depot.
- The fleet's diesel vans and HGVs have been fuelled with a 25% HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) and 75% white diesel blend since December 2024, gradually increasing to 100% HVO in April 2025.
- Since December 2024, the fleet's diesel vans and HGVs have been powered by a 25% HVO (hydrotreated vegetable oil) and 75% white diesel blend. Utilising 100% HVO is expected to reduce emissions from 22% to 2%.
- Providing alternative travel options for staff including Cycle to Work scheme and Electric Vehicle Salary Sacrifice Scheme.

Council was able to improve the EPC rating of its dwellings from 58% in 2020-21 to 82% in 2023-24 through various retrofit works such as:

- Installation of LED lights, loft and cavity wall insulation, ground source heat pumps, solar panels and more. This has resulted in annual carbon savings of approximately 171 tonnes, reduction in fuel bills, improved heating, hot water and thermal comfort.
- Bringing forward new housing developments at St. Columbas and Worcester Close which incorporate low-carbon renewable heating such as ground source heat pumps, Air Source Heat Pumps and EV charging infrastructure.

Borough emissions have been reduced from 447 ktCo2 (2018) to 361 ktCo2 (2022), i.e. a reduction of 19.23% and the key factors contributing to this are as follows:

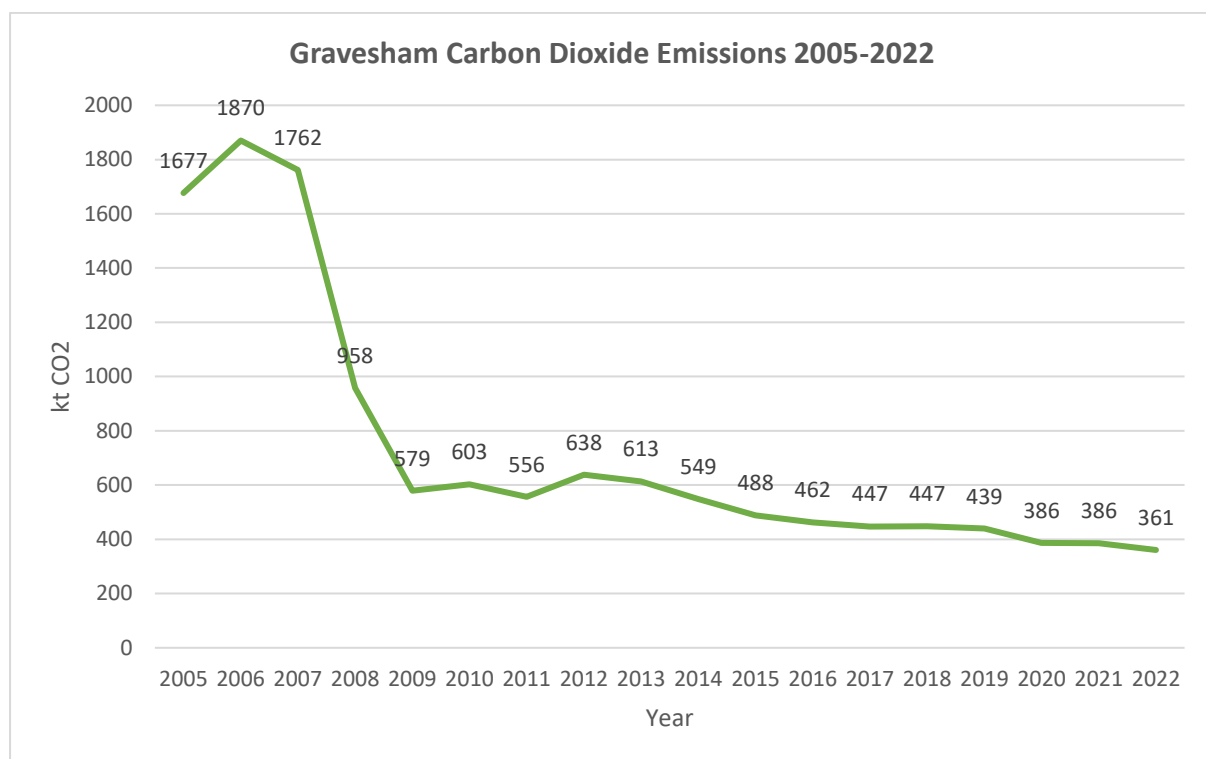
- Installed 50 EV charging points in council car parks and an ultrafast taxi EV charging facility in Parrock Street to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles among residents and taxi drivers.
- The introduction of recycling in flats has increased recycling rates (62.8%) and food waste collection (16.9%), with 18 new small recycling points in the borough yielding 33,200 items, weighing 30.3 tonnes, within a year, alongside projects with Ellenor, street champion projects, and bin sensor trials.
- Planting 3,542 trees, building a sensory garden, improving open spaces with wildflowers and grass pathways, and installing bird boxes to reduce emissions and promote biodiversity, positively impacting the environment, air quality, and resident health.
- Implementing initiatives to support residents in reducing their emissions through Solar Together Scheme, the Warm Homes Grant, Sustainability events, Gravesham Business awards, Youth Climate Conference, information packs and advice through newsletters, social media platforms and website, resulting in positive participation and increased carbon footprint reduction.

Ensuring climate considerations are understood by senior officers and Members and helping them make informed decisions around climate change, 70 Officers and Members completed Carbon Literacy training, 46 of which are certified, and achieved Bronze level status as an organisation.

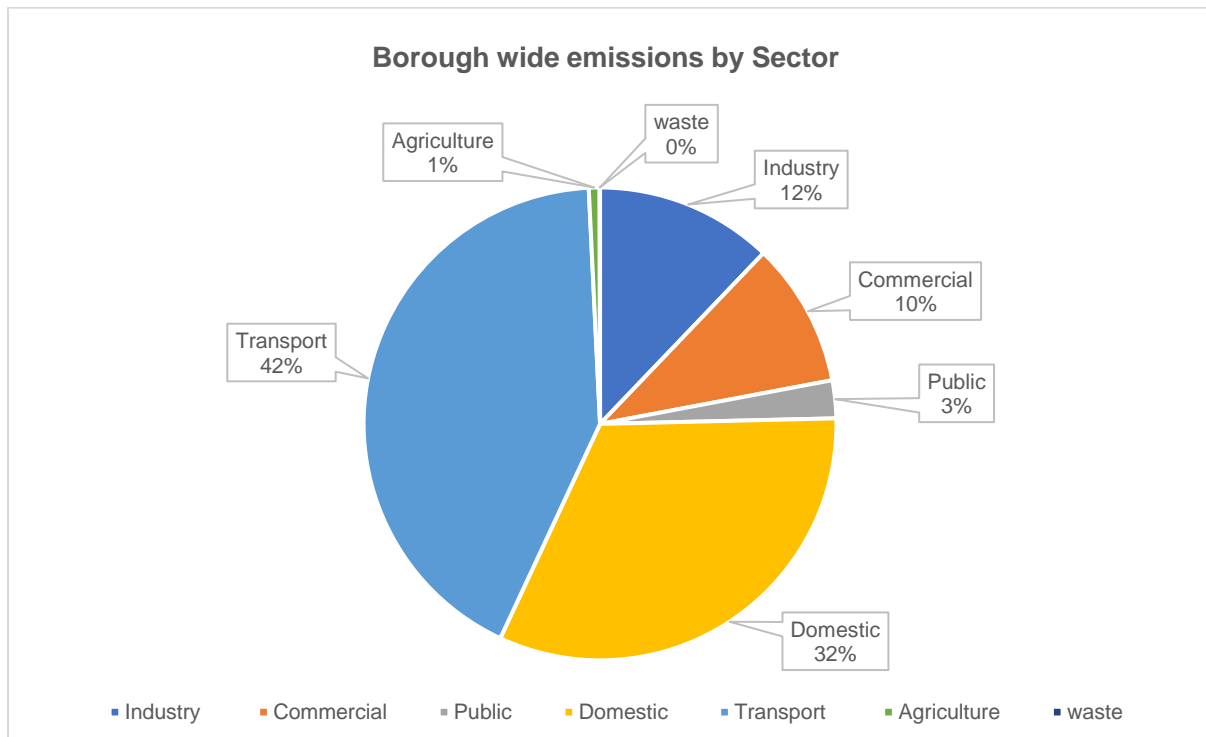
## Council and Borough Emissions

### Borough Emissions

Data on local and regional end-user carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions is collated annually by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), formerly the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to provide a nationally consistent evidence base for greenhouse gas emissions which lags by two years due to the amount of data used to compile the statistics. Looking at 2022 data, it shows a continuing decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within Gravesham. The Council emitted 361 kilo tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (ktCO<sub>2</sub>e) in the year 2022, of this, 42% came from transport, 32% came from domestic properties, 12% from industry and 10% from commercial. Together, these sources account for 96% of the Borough's total emissions.

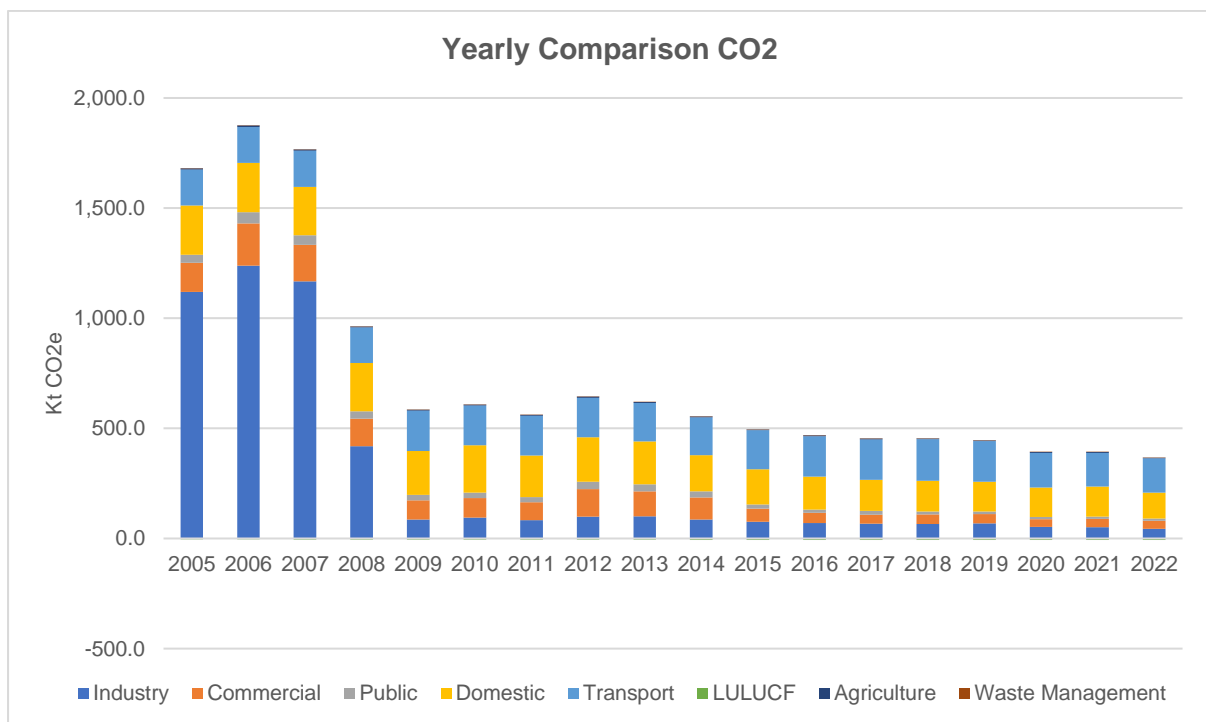


The below pie chart breaks down the Borough's emissions profile into the seven emitting sectors:



Council emissions, which account for 0.54% of total borough emissions, are included in the Public segment of the above chart, which accounts for 3% of the total emissions.

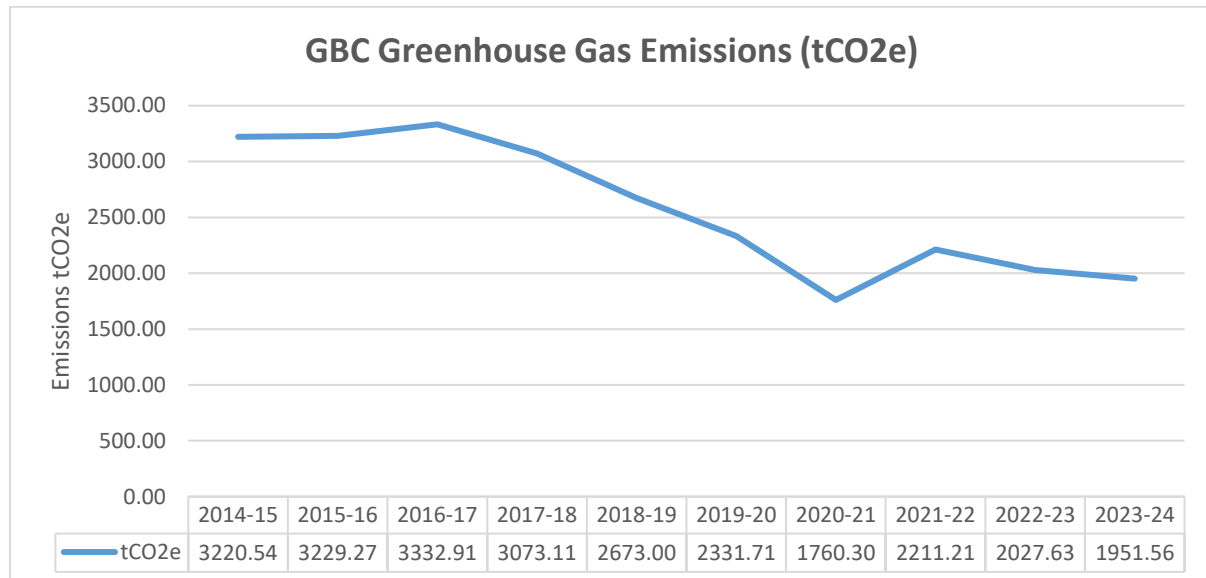
A yearly comparison of all sectors from 2005 to 2022 is provided below.



Source: [The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#)

## Council Operational Emissions

The council has measured incremental change in the level of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from its own operations since 2014-15

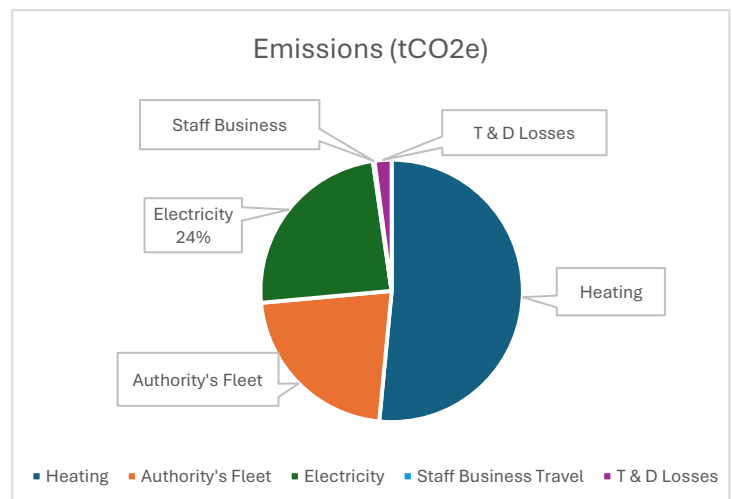


The Council's total greenhouse gas emissions continue to be recorded against the three specific 'scopes' for categorising the emissions:

- **Scope 1** – All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on sites such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air conditioning leaks.
- **Scope 2** – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.
- **Scope 3** – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control.

Total gross greenhouse gas emissions for Scope 1, 2 and 3 for the last financial year (2023-24) was 1,951.55 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The major contribution to Council emissions comes from Scope 1 and 2, i.e. Heating (51.5%), Authority's fleet (22%) and Electricity (24.2%).

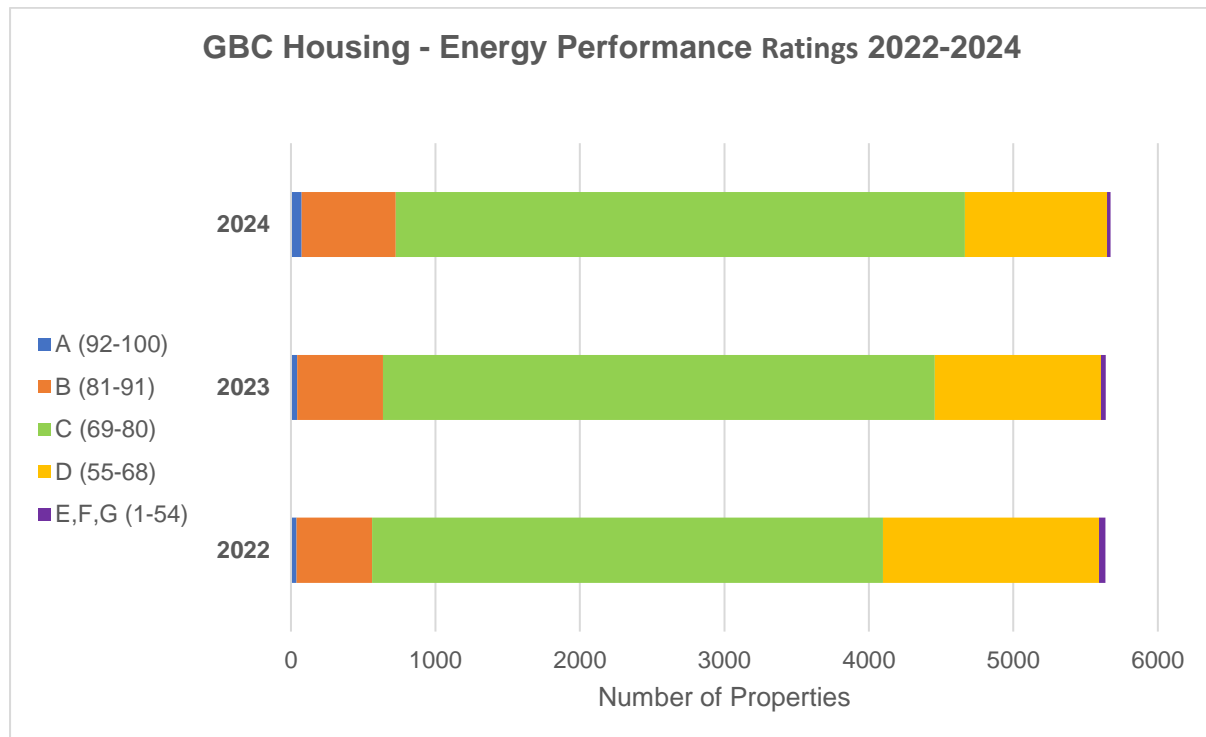
Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Total Emissions %
Scope 1	Heating	1,005.39	51.5%
	Authority's Fleet	429.97	22.0%
Scope 2	Electricity	471.41	24.2%
Scope 3	Staff Business Travel	4.00	0.2%
	T & D Losses	40.78	2.1%
Total Emissions		1,951.55	100%



## GBC Housing Stock Emissions

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are required in the UK to provide a prospective owner or tenant with information on the energy performance of a building and recommendations for improvement. EPCs for homes use an A-G rating scale based on the modelled energy bill costs of running the building. As per new EPC Regulations, all existing council-owned homes are to meet EPC Band C or better by 2030, where practical, cost-effective, and affordable.

The graph below shows the improvement in energy performance for the council's social housing stock between 2022 and 2024.



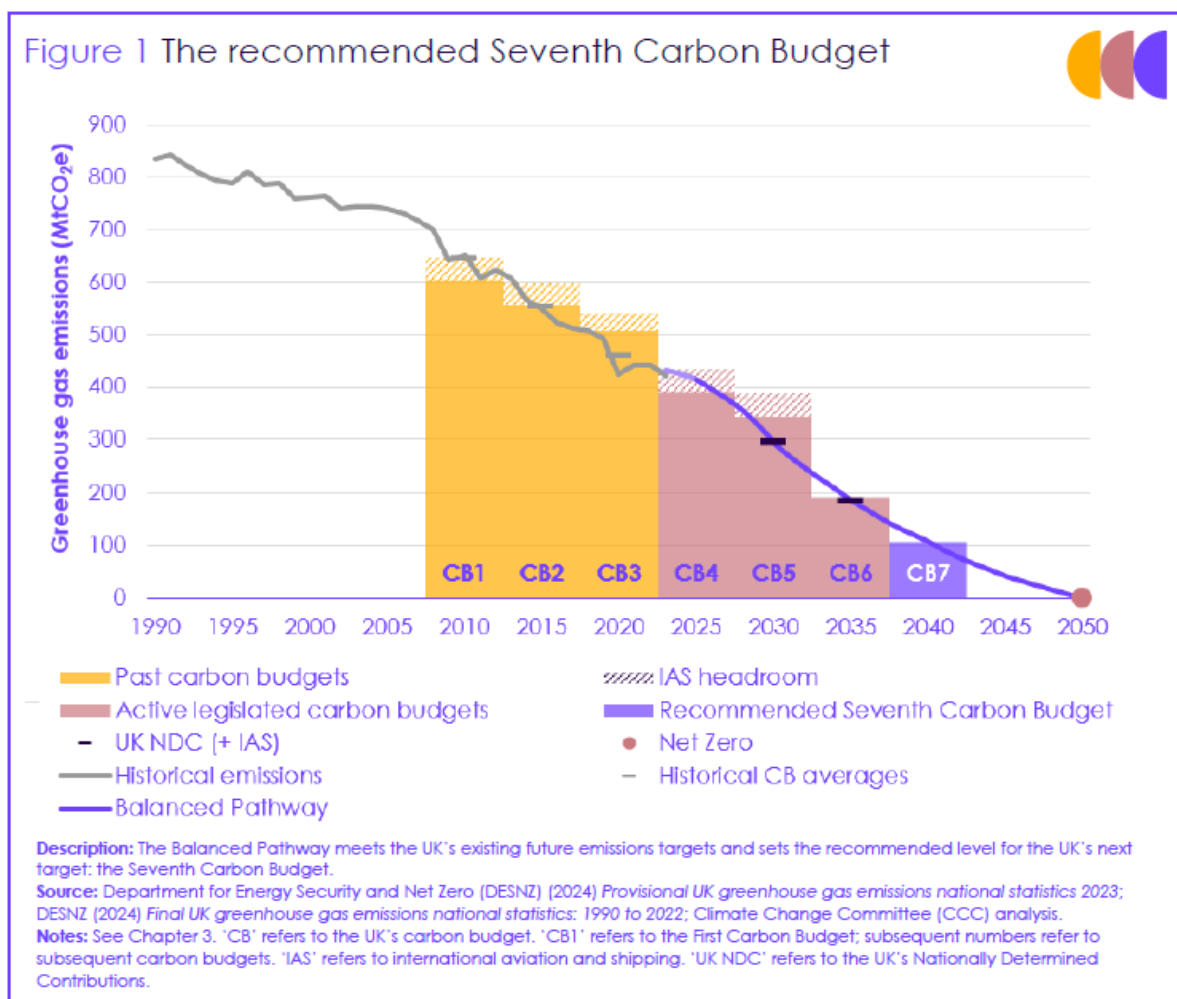
The graph demonstrates that planned council activity during the year had a significant impact on improving the energy efficiency of its housing stock since the strategy was adopted in the year 2021; the proportion of homes with an EPC Rating of C or above is at 82% in 2024, up from 76% in 2023 and up from 63% in 2022.

## Carbon Budgets

### UK Carbon Budget

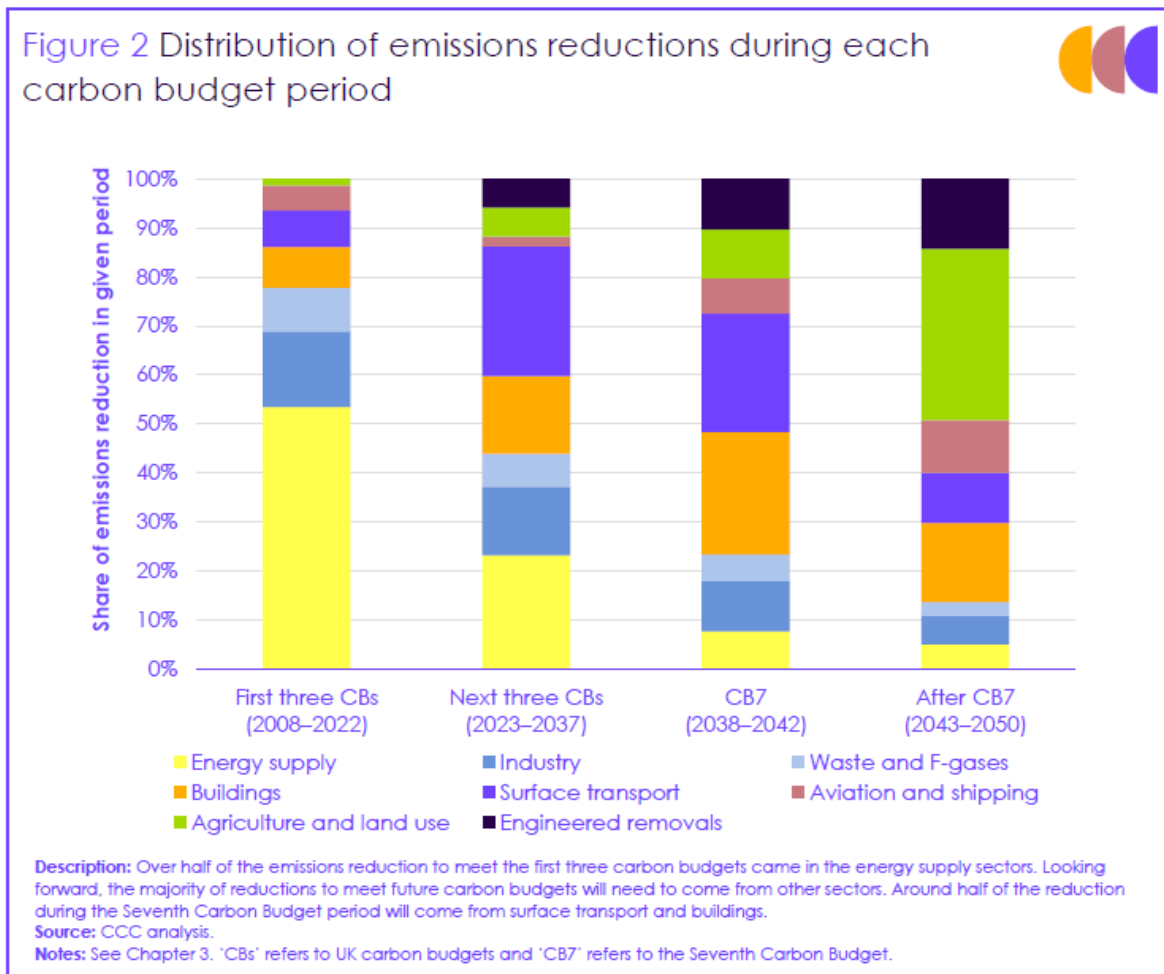
The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Their purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The UK has committed to reaching Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with any residual greenhouse gas emissions balanced by removals. Their advice on the level of the Seventh Carbon Budget is based on Balanced Pathway: an emissions reduction pathway from 2025 to Net Zero by 2050. The pathway is in line with all of the UK's legislated carbon budgets and stated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It achieves the recommended Seventh Carbon Budget via domestic action, without resorting to international credits.



Emissions in the UK in 2023 were around half the levels they were in 1990. The pace of emissions reduction has more than doubled since the introduction of carbon budgets in 2008, driven by the phase-out of coal and the ramp-up of renewable electricity generation. By the middle of the Seventh Carbon Budget, on our pathway, emissions in the UK will be only a quarter of the level they are today, and 87% lower than levels in 1990 (90% lower excluding emissions from international aviation and shipping). Achieving this will require a significant

reduction in emissions across sectors including surface transport, buildings, industry, and agriculture.



Source: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-seventh-carbon-budget/>

The Seventh Carbon Budget is expected to be delivered through five routes,

1. **Electricity** -> Low-carbon supply, Electric Vehicles (EVs), Heat pumps and Industrial electrification
2. **Low-carbon fuels and carbon capture and storage (CCS)** -> Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and shipping fuels, Hydrogen and CCS
3. **Nature** -> new woodland creation and peatland restoration
4. **Engineered removals**
5. **Demand** -> increased efficiency and low-carbon choices

Many of the solutions are available today and could be rapidly deployed, provided the right incentives are put in place. Other solutions, particularly within low-carbon fuels and engineered removals, are less certain and industry and government should continue to pursue multiple options for now.



## Gravesham Carbon Budget

The Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction (SCATTER) project funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) developed a methodology for Local Authorities to set carbon emissions targets that are consistent with the United Nations Paris Climate Agreement. This report uses the SCATTER methodology with revised global carbon budgets, based on the latest IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C and updated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions datasets, to downscale global carbon budgets to Gravesham. This methodology has been successfully piloted with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and is being made available nationally to support all local authorities and groupings of local authorities. The report provides Gravesham with budgets for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and from the energy system for 2018 to 2100.

The carbon budgets are based on translating the “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature target and equity principles in the United Nations Paris Agreement to a national UK carbon budget.

<b>Carbon Budget Period</b>	<b>Recommended Carbon Budget (Million tonnes (Mt) CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>
<b>2018 - 2022</b>	2.0
<b>2023 - 2027</b>	1.0
<b>2028 - 2032</b>	0.5
<b>2033 - 2037</b>	0.3
<b>2038 - 2042</b>	0.1
<b>2043 - 2047</b>	0.1
<b>2048 - 2100</b>	0.1

As per the DESNZ statistics, the total emissions from the year 2018 to 2022 have been 2,019 Kt CO<sub>2</sub> which is 1.83 MT CO<sub>2</sub> which means we are well within the recommended carbon budget.

Source: <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/>

## Local Climate Risks

The Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF) is a collaboration of organisations and agencies aimed at enhancing the resilience of Kent and Medway communities and coordinating emergency responses. Established in response to the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004, KMRF is one of 38 local resilience forums across England, aligned with local police areas, and aims to minimise impact during emergencies.

Their strategic aim is to promote a comprehensive and collaborative approach to the mitigation of risks to the public and to enhance response, resilience, and recovery. As climate change intensifies, its effects are felt from local to global scales, although the outcomes vary. Geographies play a crucial role in determining how specific areas experience these impacts. Understanding the particular risks relevant to each area is essential for building resilience.

The following section outlines the main risks that, in the worst case, could affect the borough and the entire county, according to the KMRF Community Risk Register. The register places risks into five categories. These categories are determined by assessing the 'likelihood' of a risk occurring and the various 'impacts' that the risk would cause. The categories are; Accident and System failure, Cyber, Human and animal disease, and Societal and Natural hazards.

The likelihood of a risk occurring is based on historical evidence, subject matter expert opinion and local expertise. The KMRF constantly carries out a process called 'horizon scanning', in which they monitor various channels to forecast what may occur in the short, medium and long term (e.g. weather forecasting). Climate risks within the register are associated as natural hazards and are classified as follows.

### **Very High Risks – Coastal Flooding**

These are classed as primary or critical risks requiring immediate attention. They may have a high or low likelihood of occurrence, but their potential consequences are such that they must be treated as a high priority.

### **High Risks – Fluvial Flooding and Surface Water Flooding**

These risks are classed as significant. They may have a high or low likelihood of occurrence, but their potential consequences are sufficiently serious to warrant appropriate consideration after those risks classed as 'very high'. Consideration should be given to the development of strategies to reduce or eliminate the risks, but also mitigation in the form of at least (multiagency) generic planning, exercising and training should be put in place and the risk monitored on a regular frequency.

### **Medium Risks – Drought, Poor Air Quality, Space Weather, Heatwave**

These risks are less significant but may cause upset and inconvenience in the short term. These risks should be monitored to ensure that they are being appropriately managed and consideration given to their being managed under generic emergency planning arrangements.

### **Low Risks – Earthquake UK**

This risk is unlikely to occur and not significant in their impact. It should be managed using normal or generic planning arrangements and require minimal monitoring and control unless subsequent risk assessments show a substantial change, prompting a move to another risk category.

Source: [The Kent Community Risk Register](#)

## Our Climate Change Ambitions

Our Climate Change Strategy marks the Council's commitment to tackling the challenge of climate change across the borough. It provides a framework for our actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change that are already happening to provide a better environment for future generations.

Adaptation to climate change is an essential component of our approach. This involves adjusting processes, practices, and frameworks to minimise possible harm or take advantage of climate change opportunities.

The council has developed a new strategy that includes the following priority areas and depends on all of us taking action to bring about significant change. We cannot accomplish these goals unless the entire Borough works together. For the borough to move closer to the net zero goal, the Council, our residents, businesses, and other important community members are all responsible for their actions.

### 1. Transport & Movement

Our goal is to transform our transportation habits by establishing a sustainable movement network throughout our borough that facilitates walking, cycling, public transportation, and wheeling. In addition to embracing new technologies, we'll make sure that the appropriate infrastructure is available when needed. The health and well-being of our communities will improve if we encourage active travel and lower transportation-related carbon emissions.

- Promote and encourage active travel – walking, wheeling and cycling
- Promote and encourage the use of public transport and everyday active initiatives
- Produce an EV Strategy and improve the network of EV Charge Points in the Borough
- Promote and encourage the use of electric vehicles in the Borough
- Work with Kent County Council to reduce the volume of traffic on our roads and improve our transport infrastructure in favour of active transport
- Develop a path towards a low-carbon taxi fleet and engine idling
- Car sharing and car-pooling initiatives

### 2. Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Our goal is to make all existing and future dwellings as energy and water-efficient as possible, hence lowering consumer prices. We will collaborate with partners and infrastructure providers to share the most recent details regarding the grants and programs that are accessible to our residents and communities.

- Encourage and support homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes through insulation, double glazing, and energy-efficient appliances
- Support and promote the installation of renewable energy sources such as solar panels, heat pumps, and biomass boilers.
- Identify opportunities and support community-led energy projects, e.g. local solar farms in the borough

- Encourage new developments to maximise opportunities for implementing renewable energy technologies and sustainable materials
- Champion more sustainable development through the Local Plan
- Ensure all Council-led housing development is built to low carbon standards.
- Embrace new technology including carbon capture/storage

### **3. Low carbon Business & Industry**

Our goal is to encourage businesses, industries and commercial buildings to reduce their carbon footprint. We will collaborate with partners and infrastructure providers to share the most recent details regarding the grants and programs that are accessible to our businesses and communities.

- Encourage Businesses and Industries to adopt cleaner/renewable technologies and to comply with environmental regulations.
- Encourage and support the development of renewable energy projects within industrial zones.
- Promote energy audits to identify areas where businesses and industries can improve energy efficiency.
- Signpost commercial & industrial sectors to government-funded retrofit programmes.
- Encourage them to install energy-efficient appliances & smart systems.
- Encourage them to have green energy contracts.
- Encourage and promote installing solar panels on commercial buildings.
- Encourage and promote the use of electric vehicles.
- Encourage businesses to adopt waste reduction practices, such as reducing packaging and composting organic waste.
- Establish local recognition programs for businesses that achieve high standards in sustainability.
- Foster collaboration between local authorities, industries, and environmental organisations.
- Run public awareness campaigns to highlight the benefits of reducing emissions and the steps businesses can take.

### **4. Waste production & Resource consumption**

Our goal is to increase recycling rates and reduce the quantity of nonrecyclable material we receive. Additionally, we want our communities to have easy access to information so that people may make environmentally friendly decisions.

- Deliver recycling services to domestic properties and commercial customers
- Support and encourage residents and businesses to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost
- Improve recycling rates in the Borough
- Support circular economy principles
- Provide the right information to enable our communities to make climate-friendly choices

## **5. Land Use & Biodiversity**

Our goal is to conserve and improve the natural environment's preservation and environmental benefits as well as to demonstrate that we are responding to climate change in a timely and suitable manner.

- Produce and adopt a Biodiversity Strategy
- Champion biodiversity net gain on new developments through the local plan
- Improve access to open space, food growing and wildlife through land management, community gardening and habitat creation
- Supporting improved food choices – healthy diet information, public health initiatives
- Produce habitat management plans to enhance and restore favourable conditions for effective carbon sequestration.
- Increase biodiversity through local 'green' initiatives, volunteering opportunities and rewilding

## **6. Collaboration, Engagement & Awareness**

Our goal is to bring together our residents and communities and work along with them to tackle the challenges of the climate crisis and convey the idea that any single step towards reducing emissions is beneficial.

- Raise awareness of Climate Change via the implementation of a communications strategy
- Support community activities aimed at decreasing emissions and increasing local resilience to climate change
- Signpost residents and businesses to relevant grants
- Work with all partners and key stakeholders to address climate change
- Organise workshops and informative sessions for residents and businesses on best practices for reducing emissions and sustainability

## **7. Council Assets & Fleet**

As we work towards achieving net zero, we are and will continue to do everything we can to minimise emissions from our fleet and our own operational assets where financially viable.

- Reduce carbon emissions from our operational assets through implementing heat decarbonisation plans
- Reduce carbon emissions from our fleet through switching to electric vehicles or renewable fuels like HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil)
- Improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock and bring EPC rating to band C

## Climate Action Co-benefits

Implementing climate action and reducing emissions offer numerous co-benefits beyond just mitigating climate change. Here are some key benefits.

### 1. Public Health Improvements

- **Reduced Air Pollution:** Lower emissions from fossil fuels decrease pollutants like particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, leading to fewer respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.
- **Healthier Lifestyles:** Promoting active transportation (walking, cycling) and sustainable diets can improve physical health and reduce obesity rates.

### 2. Economic Benefits

- **Job Creation:** The transition to renewable energy and green technologies creates new job opportunities in sectors like solar, wind, and energy efficiency.
- **Cost Savings:** Energy efficiency measures can reduce energy bills for households and businesses, leading to significant cost savings.

### 3. Environmental Protection

- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Actions like reforestation and habitat restoration help preserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services such as water purification and soil fertility.
- **Reduced Resource Depletion:** Efficient use of resources and reduced consumption help conserve natural resources like water and minerals.

### 4. Social Equity

- **Improved Living Conditions:** Climate actions can improve living conditions in vulnerable communities by reducing pollution and providing access to clean energy.
- **Equitable Access:** Ensuring fair access to the benefits of climate action, such as clean energy and green jobs, can help address social inequalities.

### 5. Enhanced Climate Resilience

- **Infrastructure Adaptation:** Investing in resilient infrastructure can protect communities from the impacts of extreme weather events, such as floods and storms.
- **Sustainable Land Use:** Practices like sustainable agriculture and urban planning can enhance the resilience of food systems and reduce vulnerability to climate impacts.

### 6. Energy Security

- **Diversified Energy Sources:** Reducing reliance on fossil fuels and increasing the use of renewable energy sources can enhance energy security and reduce vulnerability to energy price fluctuations.
- **Local Energy Production:** Promoting local renewable energy production can reduce dependence on imported energy and increase energy independence.

### 7. Community and Social Benefits

- **Community Cohesion:** Climate action initiatives can bring communities together, fostering collaboration and strengthening social ties.
- **Education and Awareness:** Integrating climate education into schools and communities can empower individuals to take action and promote sustainable practices.

## Links to other strategies

The council's Climate Change commitment is intrinsically linked to several council policies and strategies, putting Climate Change at the heart of all of our activities:

- Corporate Plan
- Local Plan
- Air Quality Monitoring Strategy
- Procurement Strategy
- Social Value Policy
- Waste Management Policy
- Street Cleansing Policy
- Animal Control and Environmental Protection Enforcement Policy
- Housing Development Strategy
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Communications Strategy
- IT & Digital Plan

## Monitoring & Reporting

To ensure the Climate Change Strategy is delivered successfully, accountability must be embedded across all service areas and levels of authority within the council. The below management plan highlights how the Council will achieve this:

- Officer working groups will be formed to carry out tasks within the scope of their departments.
- The Climate Action Delivery Manager will meet the officer working groups to monitor the progress of the delivery plan.
- The Management Team will be updated about the progress made through the delivery plan.
- Every six months, the Climate Change Advisory Board will receive a report detailing the progress of the delivery plan.
- Annual report will be produced to go to the Full Council for approval and adoption at the end of each year.
- Once approved, the annual report will be published on the Council's website.

## Contact Details

Our dedicated [Climate Change](#) webpage has a wide range of information for residents and businesses along with annual reports. The webpage continues to develop as and when additional information is available to update.

For any further information, please email at [climate@gravesham.gov.uk](mailto:climate@gravesham.gov.uk)



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