

CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday 12 April 2023
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone

Membership:

Councillors Brice (Chairman), Mrs Gooch (Vice-Chairman), Brindle, Cannon, Cooke, Cox, Harper, Hinder and Khadka

The Chairman will assume that all Members will read the reports before attending the meeting. Officers are asked to assume the same when introducing reports.

AGENDA

Page No.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Substitute Members
3. Urgent Items
4. Notification of Visiting Members
5. Disclosures by Members and Officers
6. Disclosures of Lobbying
7. To consider whether any items should be taken in private because of the possible disclosure of exempt information
8. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 February 2023 To Follow
9. Question and Answer session for Members of the Public (if any)
10. Presentation of Petitions (if any)
11. Questions from Members to the Chairman (if any)
12. Forward Plan relating to the Committee's Terms of Reference 1 - 3
13. Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Annual Review 4 - 32

Issued on 31 March 2023

Continued Over/:

Alison Broom

Alison Broom, Chief Executive

INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC

To ask a question at this meeting, please call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting by 5 p.m. on Thursday 6 April 2023. You will need to provide the full text in writing.

If your question is accepted, you will be provided with instructions as to how you can access the meeting.

To make a statement in relation to an item on the agenda, please call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk by 5 p.m. one clear working day before the meeting by 5 p.m. on Thursday 6 April 2023. You will need to tell us which agenda item you wish to speak on.

If you require this information in an alternative format please contact us, call **01622 602899** or email committee@maidstone.gov.uk.

To find out more about the work of the Committee, please visit www.maidstone.gov.uk.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 MARCH 2023 TO 31 MAY 2023

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Executive or Lead Members expect to take and the non-Key decisions that the Executive or Lead Members expect to take during the next four-month period. The plan will be updated weekly for the relevant period and a new plan for a new four-month period, published monthly on the last Friday of the month. This Forward Plan covers the period up to the end of the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

A Key Decision is defined as one which:

1. Results in the Council incurring expenditure, or making savings, of more than £250,000; or
2. Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards in the Borough

The current members of the Executive are:

 <p>Councillor David Burton Leader of the Council DavidBurton@maidstone.gov.uk 07590 229910</p>	 <p>Councillor John Perry Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Corporate Services JohnPerry@Maidstone.gov.uk 07770 734741</p>	 <p>Councillor Lottie Parfitt-Reid Lead Member for Communities and Public Engagement LottieParfittReid@Maidstone.gov.uk 07919 360000</p>	 <p>Councillor Martin Round Lead Member for Environmental Services MartinRound@maidstone.gov.uk 07709 263447</p>
 <p>Councillor Simon Webb Lead Member for Housing and Health SimonWebb@Maidstone.gov.uk 07878 018997</p>	 <p>Councillor Claudine Russell Lead Member for Leisure and Arts ClaudineRussell@Maidstone.gov.uk</p>	 <p>Councillor Paul Cooper Lead Member for Planning and Infrastructure PaulCooper@Maidstone.gov.uk 01622 244070</p>	

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision or a Part II decision may not be taken, unless it has been published on the forward plan for 28 days or it is classified as urgent:

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key and part II decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan.

Copies of the Council's constitution, forward plan, reports and decisions may be inspected at the Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or accessed from the Council's website: www.maidstone.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Executive which are normally held at the Town Hall, High St, Maidstone, ME14 1SY. The dates and times of the meetings are published on www.maidstone.gov.uk or you may contact the Democratic Services Team on telephone number 01622 602899 for further details.

David Burton
Leader of the Council

Details of the Decision to be taken	Decision to be taken by	Lead Member	Expected Date of Decision	Key	Exempt	Proposed Consultees / Method of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated
Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Annual Review ω	Executive	Leader of the Council	18 Apr 2023	Yes	No Open	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee 12 Apr 2023	Executive Report	James Wilderspin Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager jameswilderspin@m aidstone.gov.uk

Agenda Item 13

**CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

12 April 2023

Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Annual Review

Timetable	
Meeting	Date
Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee	4 April 2023
Planning and Infrastructure Policy Advisory Committee	5 April 2023
Communities, Housing and Environment Policy Advisory Committee	11 April 2023
Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee (CSPAC)	12 April 2023
Executive	18 April 2023

Will this be a Key Decision?	No
Urgency	Not Applicable
Final Decision-Maker	Executive
Lead Head of Service	Angela Woodhouse, Director of Strategy, Insight and Governance
Lead Officer and Report Author	James Wilderspin, Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

The Biodiversity and Climate Change Action plan has been reviewed and updated as part of the scheduled annual review. The plan at Appendix 1 has been developed with the executive and the Policy Advisory Committees are asked to review the plan and make recommendations as appropriate.

Purpose of Report

To consider and recommend the revised Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan to the Executive.

This report makes the following recommendations to Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee:

1. To consider the Actions that fall within its remit and recommend the updated Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan to the Executive.

Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Annual Review

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure • Safe, Clean and Green • Homes and Communities • A Thriving Place <p>Accepting the recommendations will materially improve the Council's ability to achieve all its priorities</p>	Anna Collier Insight Communities and Governance Manager
Cross Cutting Objectives	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage is Respected • Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced • Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved • Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected <p>The report recommendation directly supports the achievement of the Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected cross cutting objective through the delivery of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action plan. It also indirectly supports cross cutting objectives of Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved as delivery of actions have the opportunity to improve the health of residents in the longer term and the delivery of communication activities has the ability to reduce residents' energy costs.</p>	Anna Collier Insight Communities and Governance Manager
Risk Management	Already covered in the risk section	Anna Collier Insight Communities and Governance Manager
Financial	The specific costed proposals will be funded from within existing budgets. Future changes to policies and strategies will need to be assessed to understand the impact to ensure they remain affordable during the year and in future years as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team

Staffing	We will deliver the recommendations with our current staffing.	Anna Collier Insight Communities and Governance Manager
Legal	Local authorities have a duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 in exercising their functions to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The Council's Biodiversity and Climate Action Plan demonstrates compliance with the statutory duty.	Gary Rowland – Senior Legal Advisor (Corporate Governance)
Information Governance	The recommendations do not impact personal information (as defined in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) the Council Processes. Some individual actions may have implications in the future and the appropriate review and documentations will be completed as required	Anna Collier Insight Communities and Governance Manager
Equalities	If not already considered, an Equalities Impact Assessment should be completed as part of the recommended work set out in the action plan to ensure they meet the needs of those affected by it.	Equalities & Communities Officer
Public Health	We recognise that the recommendations will have a positive impact on population health or that of individuals.	Public Health Officer
Crime and Disorder	No Implications	Anna Collier Insight Communities and Governance Manager
Procurement	Some actions will have implications and the appropriate procurement exercises will be undertaken	Head of Service & Section 151 Officer

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The annual review of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan is stipulated as part of the action plan to check if actions are still relevant, if there are new Government approaches or science-based targets, and if actions are progressing. At the last update of the action plan at Communities Housing and Environment PAC on the 15 November 2022 the Leader outlined the proposed annual review process for the actions within the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan to be separated into those within the Council's direct control and those it can influence. The actions would be aligned to the relevant Lead Member on the Executive and presented to the respective Policy Advisory Committees as part of the annual review process. The Leader of the Council stated that the proposed approach would be manageable and would ensure that the actions were effectively monitored.
- 2.2 The review included the following steps:
- Officers and the Executive reviewed the wording, clarity, timeline of each of the 68 actions to ensure actions are specific and transparent.
 - It was clarified which actions were in direct control of the council and those actions the council can influence.
 - Actions were aligned to Portfolio holders and PACs to ensure accountability at an Executive level.
 - A streamlined action plan has been developed for consultation and final approval with PACs.
- 2.3 The revised action plan can be seen at **Appendix 1**. The plan details the action, responsible PAC and officers, the timeline, indicators, and costs. A succinct version of the revised action plan can be found at **Appendix 2**. There are significant cost implications to meeting our challenging net zero ambition, these go beyond the budget available and recognise the need to apply for and make use of grant funding and other opportunities as they are identified.
- 2.4 The action plan follows 9 themes:
- Active Travel and Green Transportation
 - Decarbonising and insulating homes and buildings
 - Generating renewable energy
 - Reducing waste
 - Adapting to climate change
 - Enhancing and increasing biodiversity
 - Making our estate carbon neutral
 - Communications and engagement strategy
 - Sustainable decision-making processes and governance

3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee review the new version of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan and recommend, the addition, removal or change of actions within the action plan.

- 3.2 Alternatively, Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee could recommend to the Executive that the original version of the action plan is retained or that further review is required.
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4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Economic Regeneration and Leisure Policy Advisory Committee consider and recommend the updated Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan as its adoption ensures greater clarity and monitoring of the actions.
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5. RISK

- 5.1 Biodiversity and Climate Change is a key corporate risk. In April 2019, the council declared a Biodiversity and Climate Change Emergency, ensuring that the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan is a relevant and actionable document help to mitigate that risk.
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6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 6.1 The Policy and Resources Committee adopted the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan on 21st October 2020.
- 6.2 On November 15 2022, Communities, Housing and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) considered an update on the action plan. The PAC was advised by the Leader that the annual review of the action plan would ensure actions were specific, clear and transparent. The results of which would be shared with each PAC prior to sign-off. The Committee expressed support for the proposed review process and welcomed greater Member involvement.
- 6.3 A number of informal meetings have been held with Officers and the Executive to review the plan.
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7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 7.1 The action plan will be presented to each Policy Advisory Committee for consideration prior to a decision by the Executive on 18 April 2023.
- 7.2 Once approved the website will be updated to show the new actions.
- 7.3 Progress of the implementation of the actions will continue to be monitored and updates given to relevant PACs on a six-monthly basis.

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix 1: Revised Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan
 - Appendix 2: Biodiversity and Climate Change Actions Succinct List
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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
Active travel and green transportation									
Action 1.1 Update the Integrated Transport Strategy, and work towards a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to prioritise walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicles. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">11</div>	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Alison Broom William Cornall Rob Jarman Phil Coyne Claire Weeks Mark Egerton Helen Garnett	Direct	2023-24	Update the Integrated Transport Strategy	Improvements in Borough Air quality Reduction of CO2e Increase Active Travel Increase Public Transportation usage Reduce Pollution Support transition to EVs	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
Action 1.2 Deliver policies that enable infrastructure for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low carbon transportation, 	Cllr Paul Cooper	Alison Broom	Direct	2023-24	Update Sustainability DPD as part of	As above	Percentage change of low carbon	Biannual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active travel, and that Facilitates high quality public transport connectivity in new developments and existing communities. <p>12</p>	P&IPAC	William Cornall Rob Jarman Phil Coyne Claire Weeks Mark Egerton Helen Garnett			larger Development Plan		transportation, active travel, and public transport	From the Planning Monitoring Report	
Action 1.3 Identify low carbon transportation, active travel, and public transport indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor implementation of sustainable transport policies.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Alison Broom William Cornall Rob Jarman Phil Coyne Claire Weeks	Direct	2023-24	Identify and Align Indicators from Planning to BCC Action Plan	As above	Percentage change of low carbon transportation, active travel, and public transport	Biannual From the Planning Monitoring Report	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
		Mark Egerton Helen Garnett							
Action 1.4 Deliver Policy that ensures sustainable travel, such as bike racks, pool cars, electric vehicle charging, active travel, is integrated into all Maidstone Borough Council construction of new buildings (offices, housing, leisure facilities) and building acquisitions.	Cllr John Perry CSPAC	Mark Green Katie Exon	Direct	When any new building is completed or purchased	Develop and implement Policy	MBC Staff Carbon Footprint Reduced Increase in sustainable travel	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
Action 1.5 Deliver an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy for the borough that provides sufficient EV charging infrastructure to support the transition to EVs and reduces range anxiety, with consideration of changing and new emerging technologies.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Jen Stevens Claire Weeks	Direct	2023-24	Deliver an Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy	Increase confidence in emerging EV market, and reduce range anxiety	Number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points Installed	Biannual From the Planning Monitoring Report	Officer Time
Action 1.6 Facilitate a move to electric taxis by providing nine rapid charge points in total by 2025, and twelve rapid charge points by 2030.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC And	John Littlemore Lorraine Neale	Influence	2023-25	Work with Taxi trade to find location, support funding, install rapid chargers	Increase in Taxi EVs Reduction in pollution and CO2e	Number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points Installed	Biannual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
	Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC								
Action 1.7 Work with the taxi trade to find solutions to licencing that will encourage gradual business led shift to EVs' and promote greener accreditation and campaigns to support taxi trade to move to EVs. 14	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC And Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC	John Littlemore Lorraine Neale	Influence	2023-25	Work with Taxi trade to establish accreditation	Increase in Taxi EVs Reduction in pollution and CO2e	Number of EV taxi	Biannual	Officer Time
Action 1.8 Actively participate in Quality Bus Partnership and ensure that the borough's infrastructure is bus friendly.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Rob Jarman Phil Coyne Claire Weeks Mark Egerton Helen Garnett	Influence	2023-25	Deliver bus friendly infrastructure	Lower emission busses Increase in public transportation usage	Improvement in Borough Air Quality	Annual	Officers Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
		Duncan Haynes							
Decarbonising and insulating homes and buildings									
Action 2.1 Explore grants schemes for residents, landlords and housing associations, for retrofitting insulation, and low carbon heating systems. 15	Cllr Simon Webb and Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC	John Littlemore Hannah Gaston	Direct	2023-2024	Explore grant scheme potential	Increase in residents' retrofits to low carbon systems Reduced utility bills/costs Improvements in EPC ratings Reductions in CO2e	Number of residents with EPC rating improvements of A-C from D-G	Annual From Central Government Data	Grants if scheme and funding is identified
Action 2.2 Enforce Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.	Cllr Simon Webb CHEPAC	John Littlemore Hannah Gaston	Direct	2023-2024	Enforce Energy Efficiency	As above	As above	Annual	Officer time
Generating renewable energy									
Action 3.1 Ensure Sustainability DPD as part of larger Development Plan requires on-site renewables on all types of new	Cllr Paul Cooper	Rob Jarman Phil Coyne	Direct	2023 onwards	Ensure DPD policy is enacted	Increase in renewable energy	Percentage of onsite renewable	Biannual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
developments and identify indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor implementation.	P&IPAC	Claire Weeks Mark Egerton Helen Garnett				generation in the borough	energy generation in new developments 10% adopted standard	From the Planning Monitoring Report	
Reducing waste									
Action 4.1 Investigate recycling strategies in the Town centre. 16	Cllr Martin Round CHEPAC	John Edwards	Influence	2023-24	Investigate recycling strategies and budget for additional bins and awareness campaigns in town centre	Increase in recycling	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
Action 4.2 Ensure MBC offices and buildings have recycling facilities.	Cllr Martin Round CHEPAC	Katie Exon	Direct	2023-24	Develop policy and contracts to ensure MBC buildings are able to recycle waste	Increase in recycling	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
Adapting to climate change									
Action 5.1 Deliver policy as part of design and sustainability DPD and future Development Plan evolution for long term climate change adaptation in new	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Rob Jarman Mark Egerton	Direct	2023	Deliver policy for long term climate change adaptation in	Flooding, heat and drought impacts of climate	NA	Annual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
developments to flooding, heatwaves, and drought and ensure longer term climate impacts are being considered as part of planning and policy decisions. Identify indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor implementation.		Helen Garnett			new developments Identify indicators	change are considered in planning and long-term development			
Action 5.2 Identify actions to mitigate climate change in existing developments. 17	Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC	James Wilderspin Gemma Bailey	Influence	2023-24	Identify actions	Reductions in climate impacts to existing communities Increase in resilience to impacts of climate change	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
Action 5.3 Conduct Borough Climate Impact Assessment and (i) identify natural flood management (nature-based solutions and sustainable urban drainage), (ii) build local communities' resilience, (iii) support business continuity management, and	Cllr John Perry CSPAC And Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid	James Wilderspin Gemma Bailey	Influence	2023-25	Conduct Impact Assessment Work with communities to develop strategies	Reductions in climate impacts to existing communities Increase in resilience to impacts of climate change	NA	Annual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
(iv) priorities and strengthen power and water supply and other critical infrastructure ensuring more resilient communities.	CHEPAC					Reduce impacts on water security and critical infrastructure			
Enhancing and increasing biodiversity									
Action 6.1 Monitor Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to adopted 20% standard.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Mark Egerton Helen Garnett	Direct	2023-27	Monitor Biodiversity Net Gain	20% increase in Biodiversity as a result of new developments	Percentage of planning applications meeting Biodiversity Net Gain 20% adopted standard	Biannual From Planning Monitoring Report	Officer Time
Action 6.2 Ensure sustainable urban drainage schemes (SuDS) maximise biodiversity potential.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Mark Egerton Helen Garnett	Direct	2023-27	Monitor Biodiversity Net Gain	20% increase in Biodiversity as a result of new developments	Percentage of planning applications meeting Biodiversity Net Gain 20% adopted standard	Biannual From Planning Monitoring Report	Officer Time
Action 6.3 Develop Supplementary Planning Documents for Garden community and other strategic development sites that ensure are exemplar for biodiversity and deliver semi natural open space.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Mark Egerton Helen Garnett	Direct	2023-27	Develop Supplementary Planning Documents	20% increase in Biodiversity as a result of new developments	NA	Biannual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
<p>Action 6.4 Enhance and expand wetland coverage across the Borough to support nutrient neutrality, flood prevention, and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Cllr David Burton</p> <p>Cllr Paul Cooper</p> <p>P&IPAC</p> <p>And</p> <p>Cllr Martin Round</p> <p>CHEPAC</p>	<p>Mark Green</p> <p>Rob Jarman</p> <p>James Wilderspin</p>	Direct	2023-25	<p>Identify wet land development sites</p> <p>integrate with SuDS, BNG, Nutrient Neutrality</p> <p>Develop businesses case for land acquisition for water cycle management and habitat restoration</p>	<p>Increase and restore wetlands</p> <p>Reduce pollution (phosphates and nitrates)</p> <p>Reduce surface water runoff, flow rates and flooding</p> <p>Increase and improve habitats and biodiversity</p>	Water quality	Biannual	Estimated £200,000 over 2 year period on already identified sites
<p>Action 6.5 Implement a Nature Recovery Strategy, linking habitat restoration and creation to improve flood protection and water quality.</p>	<p>Cllr Paul Cooper</p> <p>P&IPAC</p>	<p>Rob Jarman</p> <p>James Wilderspin</p>	Direct	2023-27	Implement a Nature Recovery Strategy	As Above	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
<p>Action 6.6 Work with local farms and landowners to deliver landscape scale biodiversity initiatives Nature Recovery</p>	<p>Cllr Paul Cooper</p>	<p>Rob Jarman</p>	Influence	2023-30	Engage with farmers and landowners	Reconnection of habitats	NA	Biannual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
Strategy – including reconnection of habitats, floodplain restoration, reduced chemical inputs and reintroduction of lost native species.	P&IPAC And Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC	James Wilderspin Gemma Bailey				floodplain restoration reduced chemical inputs reintroduction of lost native species			
Action 6.7 Increase borough canopy cover expanding ancient forests and reconnecting of existing woodland including urban woods, and greening town centres.	Cllr David Burton CHEPAC	James Wilderspin Rob Jarman Andrew Williams	Direct	2023-2030	Partner and develop large scale tree planting and rewilding opportunities Develop business case for land acquisition linking BNG, Nutrient Neutrality, social values and green spaces and flood reduction via tree and	borough canopy cover expanded More CO2e sequestered Increased biodiversity	Number of Trees planted / area of land rewilded	Biannual	£200,000

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
					rewilding planting projects				
Action 6.8 Review Maidstone Borough Council non-operational land to assess potential for enhancing biodiversity including allowing community groups to take responsibility for management.	Cllr John Perry CSPAC	James Wilderspin	Direct	2023	As above	As above Community groups engaged	NA	Biannual	Officer time
Making our estate carbon neutral									
Action 7.1 Deliver Maidstone Borough Council 2030 Net Zero Commitment, by: (i) Decarbonising the councils' buildings through low carbon heating, LEDs, insulation and smart controls, (ii) decarbonising the council's fleet to fully EV, (iii) investing in renewable energy generation, (iv) incorporating energy saving principles into office strategies, and (v) supporting staff to shift to electric/ultra-low emission vehicles, public transportation and more flexible working.	Cllr John Perry CSPAC Cllr Claudine Russell ERLPAC	Mark Green Katie Exon Darren Guess James Wilderspin	Direct	2023-28	Develop Decarbonisation plan and timeline Identify and apply for funding for retrofitting and upgrading MBC buildings heating and insulation Identify renewable energy projects and partnerships	MBC Net Zero 2030	Percentage Change of Carbon Emissions from MBC Buildings, Fleet, Contracts (ie Scope 1, 2)	Biannual	£900,000 to £1,500,000 Seeking match funding from PSDS

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
					Ensure electricity capacity at depot for fleet transition to EV Upgrade Fleet to EVs				
Action 7.2 Measure the Council's carbon footprint each year and report findings to relevant committees and the public. 22	Cllr David Burton And Cllr John Perry CSPAC	James Wilderspin Katie Exon	Direct	Annually	Calculate Carbon Footprint of Scope 1/2/3	MBC Net Zero Planning and monitoring for 2030	Carbon Footprint Dashboard Percentage Change of Carbon Emissions from MBC Buildings, Fleet, Contracts (ie Scope 1, 2 and 3)	Quarterly	Officer Time
Action 7.3 Purchase 100% renewable energy for our buildings and operations where we control the supply (market dependant with maximum 10% offset) and investigate Public Energy Partnership Power Purchase Agreement (PEPPPA).	Cllr John Perry CSPAC	Mark green James Wilderspin Katie Exon	Direct	2023-24	Move to 100% green tariff Develop and/or pay for offsets	MBC Net Zero 2030	NA	Annually	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
					Investigate renewable energy business cases, purchases, investments and partnerships				
Action 7.4 Identify temporary accommodation assets eligible for insulation and low carbon heating upgrades under funding schemes and arrange installation. Provide top up funding for any measures not fully funded to ensure all homes let by MBC as temporary accommodation are energy efficient and EPC rating improved to requirement.	Cllr Simon Webb CHEPAC	William Cornall	Direct	2023-24	Identify temporary accommodation Upgrade accommodation	Improved EPC ratings Reduced utilities	NA	Annually	Officer Time
Action 7.5 Improve data management on all property including leased buildings and prioritise decarbonisation actions and improve EPC ratings.	Cllr John Perry CSPAC And Cllr Claudine Russell	Katie Exon James Wilderspin	Direct	2023-24	Improve Data Management	Reduce energy bills Improve EPC ratings	Percentage change/reduction in Utility costs/KWh for Gas, Electricity, Water usage at leased assets.	Annually	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
	ERLPAC								
Action 7.6 Deliver 100% LED lighting in MBC carparks.	Cllr Paul Cooper P&IPAC	Jeff Kitson	Direct	2023-24	Upgrade lighting	Reduces costs Improved efficiency	NA	Annually	Estimated £30,000
Communications and engagement strategy									
Action 8.1 Support residents (including adults, women, youths and children, faith groups, minority groups, and marginalised groups), partners, and wider stakeholders (Parish councils, farmers, and landowners) to understand the changes they can make to reduce and prepare for climate change. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting residents to reduce their individual carbon footprints, upskilling and green job creation, buying local, conserve water, and with sustainable lifestyles and Eatwell guidance. Promote schemes which help residents, landlords and housing associations reduce energy bills and decarbonise their buildings e.g. retrofitting grants and the government domestic and non-domestic renewable heat incentive programme. 	Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC	Gemma Bailey Julie Maddocks	Influence	2023-25	Develop engagement events / campaigns Newsletters / social media awareness raising	Informed residents on Climate change and biodiversity loss Increase resilience to the impacts of climate change improved health and well being reduction in household bills	NA	Biannual	£30,000 per annum

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and encourage residents, businesses and the third sector to install renewable energy generation or develop community energy projects, by providing information and promoting grants, shared investment, and savings schemes. • Encourage residents to separate food and recyclables, use appropriate bins, compost at home, avoid contamination and reduce waste production through promoting the circular economy strategy. • Support residents, schools and community groups with biodiversity improvement and protection, promoting relevant schemes, such as tree planting and after care, and encouraging them to enhance biodiversity in their gardens and grounds. 						<p>reduction in household waste</p> <p>increase in public transport and active travel</p>			
<p>Action 8.2 Provide staff awareness information of biodiversity and climate change at induction and provide job specific sustainability training to each service area.</p>	<p>Cllr David Burton</p> <p>CHEPAC</p>	<p>Gemma Bailey</p>	<p>Direct</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>Implement Carbon Literacy Training and tailor to each service area</p>	<p>Informed staff</p>	<p>Number of Staff carbon literate accredited</p>	<p>Biannual</p>	<p>Officer Time</p>

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
Action 8.3 Enable local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint by providing information on funding opportunities, carbon calculators, localised supply chains and travel plans that promote active travel and public transport, and support businesses to use the Kent Prepare website to raise awareness of how to prepare for flooding.	Cllr David Burton Cllr Lottie Parfitt-Reid CHEPAC	Julie Maddocks Chris Inwood Gemma Bailey	Influence	2023-25	Support businesses with information, funding opportunities and partnerships	Reduction in local business CO2e and associated costs	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
Sustainable decision-making processes and governance									
Action 9.1 Provide briefings and training for councillors and our managers on carbon, climate change, and biodiversity to create a culture change and ensure climate change and biodiversity are integrated into decision making.	Cllr David Burton CHEPAC	Gemma Bailey	Direct	2023	Implement carbon literacy training	Awarded carbon literacy accreditation	Number of Cllr carbon literate accredited	Biannual	Officer Time
Action 9.2 Ensure service plans consider biodiversity and climate change and monitor with performance indicators, so that managers plan their services to ensure opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change are taken.	Cllr John Perry CSPAC	Carly Benville Anna Collier James Wilderspin	Direct	2023	Implement KPIs	Each service area considers climate and biodiversity in decision making and monitoring	NA	Biannual	Officer Time

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
<p>Action 9.3 Deliver Policy that ensures sustainability criteria is used for all Maidstone Borough Council construction of new buildings (offices, housing, leisure facilities) and sustainability criteria is part of decision-making process for all Maidstone Borough Council building acquisitions, to ensure buildings owned by the council are sustainable, future proofed, and align with our net zero commitment.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Cllr John Perry</p> <p>CSPAC</p>	<p>Mark Green</p> <p>Paul Holland</p>	Direct	2023-24	<p>Develop and integrate policy</p> <p>Define sustainable criteria to consider on all new building acquisition and construction</p>	<p>Reduced utilities</p> <p>Future proofed investments</p>	NA	Biannual	Officer Time
<p>Action 9.4 Establish criteria for investment in climate change and biodiversity and invest to save schemes (eg. renewables, heat networks). These will consider relative impact in terms of carbon reduction and ease of delivery, such that expenditure is focused on deliverable, affordable initiatives that maximise impact on the carbon reduction targets.</p>	<p>Cllr David Burton</p> <p>And</p> <p>Cllr John Perry</p> <p>CSPAC</p>	<p>James Wilderspin</p>	Direct	2023-24	<p>Develop business cases / seek partnerships</p> <p>Establish criteria for investment</p>	<p>Carbon emission reductions</p> <p>Invest to save schemes</p> <p>Investments in green projects</p>	NA	Annually	Officer Time
<p>Action 9.5 Deliver corporate policy and sustainable procurement approach to reduce (Scope 3) MBC carbon footprint from contracts and services and ensure a 'carbon cost' is part of procurement and decision making.</p>	<p>Cllr John Perry</p> <p>CSPAC</p>	<p>Dan Hutchins</p> <p>Adrian Lovegrove</p>	Direct	2023-24	<p>Work with services and contracts to reduce CO2e / disclose footprints /</p>	<p>Reduction in MBC scope 3</p>	Carbon footprint dashboard	Biannual	<p>Officer Time</p> <p>£10,000 to £22,000 in</p>

Action	Portfolio Holder and PAC	Responsible Officer	Direct control or under influence	Timescale	Outputs	Outcomes	Key Performance Indicator	Monitoring	Budget
		James Wilderspin			<p>reduce supply chains</p> <p>Reduce spending / triple bottom line using carbon costs as well as financial costs for decision making</p>				consulting fees

Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan

Active travel and green transportation

Action 1.1 Update the Integrated Transport Strategy, and work towards a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to prioritise walking, cycling, public transport, and electric vehicles.

Action 1.2 Deliver policies that enable infrastructure for

- i. Low carbon transportation,
- ii. Active travel, and that
- iii. Facilitates high quality public transport connectivity in new developments and existing communities.

Action 1.3 Identify low carbon transportation, active travel, and public transport indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor implementation of sustainable transport policies.

Action 1.4 Deliver Policy that ensures sustainable travel, such as bike racks, pool cars, EV charging, active travel, is integrated into all Maidstone Borough Council construction of new buildings (offices, housing, leisure facilities) and building acquisitions.

Action 1.5 Deliver an EV Strategy for the borough that provides sufficient EV charging infrastructure to support the transition to EVs and reduces range anxiety, with consideration of changing and new emerging technologies.

Action 1.6 Facilitate a move to electric taxis by providing nine rapid charge points in total by 2025, and twelve rapid charge points by 2030.

Action 1.7 Work with the taxi trade to find solutions to licencing that will encourage gradual business led shift to EVs' and promote greener accreditation and campaigns to support taxi trade to move to EVs.

Action 1.8 Actively participate in Quality Bus Partnership and ensure that the borough's infrastructure is bus friendly.

Decarbonising and insulating homes and buildings

Action 2.1 Explore grants schemes for residents, landlords and housing associations, for retrofitting insulation, and low carbon heating systems.

Action 2.2 Enforce Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.

Generating renewable energy

Action 3.1 Ensure Sustainability DPD as part of larger Development Plan requires on-site renewables on all types of new developments and identify indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor implementation.

Reducing waste

Action 4.1 Investigate recycling strategies in the Town centre.

Action 4.2 Ensure MBC offices and buildings have recycling facilities.

Adapting to climate change

Action 5.1 Deliver policy as part of design and sustainability DPD and future Development Plan evolution for long term climate change adaptation in new developments to flooding, heatwaves, and drought and ensure longer term climate impacts are being considered as part of planning and policy decisions. Identify indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor implementation.

Action 5.2 Identify actions to mitigate climate change in existing developments.

Action 5.3 Conduct Borough Climate Impact Assessment and (i) identify natural flood management (nature-based solutions and sustainable urban drainage), (ii) build local communities' resilience, (iii) support business continuity management, and (iv) priorities and strengthen power and water supply and other critical infrastructure ensuring more resilient communities.

Enhancing and increasing biodiversity

Action 6.1 Monitor Biodiversity Net Gain to adopted standard.

Action 6.2 Ensure sustainable urban drainage schemes (SuDS) maximise biodiversity potential.

Action 6.3 Develop Supplementary Planning Documents for Garden community and other strategic development sites that ensure are exemplar for biodiversity and deliver semi natural open space.

Action 6.4 Enhance and expand wetland coverage across the Borough to support nutrient neutrality, flood prevention, and enhance biodiversity.

Action 6.5 Implement a Nature Recovery Strategy, linking habitat restoration and creation to improve flood protection and water quality.

Action 6.6 Work with local farms and landowners to deliver landscape scale biodiversity initiatives Nature Recovery Strategy – including reconnection of habitats, floodplain restoration, reduced chemical inputs and reintroduction of lost native species.

Action 6.7 Increase borough canopy cover expanding ancient forests and reconnecting of existing woodland including urban woods, and greening town centres.

Action 6.8 Review Maidstone Borough Council non-operational land to assess potential for enhancing biodiversity including allowing community groups to take responsibility for management.

Making our estate carbon neutral

Action 7.1 Deliver Maidstone Borough Council 2030 Net Zero Commitment, by (i) Decarbonising the councils' buildings through low carbon heating, LEDs, insulation and smart controls, (ii) decarbonising the council's fleet to fully EV, (iii) investing in renewable energy generation, (iv) incorporate energy saving principles into office strategies, and (v) support staff to shift to electric/ultra-low emission vehicles, public transportation and more flexible working.

Action 7.2 Measure the Council's carbon footprint each year and report findings to relevant committees and the public.

Action 7.3 Purchase 100% renewable energy for our buildings and operations where we control the supply (market dependant with maximum 10% offset) and investigate Public Energy Partnership Power Purchase Agreement (PEPPPA).

Action 7.4 Identify temporary accommodation assets eligible for insulation and low carbon heating upgrades under funding schemes and arrange installation. Provide top up funding for any measures not fully funded to ensure all homes let by MBC as temporary accommodation are energy efficient and EPC rating improved to requirement.

Action 7.5 Improve data management on all property including leased buildings and prioritise decarbonisation actions and improve EPC ratings.

Action 7.6 Deliver 100% LED lighting in MBC carparks.

Communications and engagement strategy

Action 8.1 Support residents (including adults, women, youths and children, faith groups, minority groups, and marginalised groups), partners, and wider stakeholders (Parish councils, farmers, and landowners) to understand the changes they can make to reduce and prepare for climate change. Including:

- Supporting residents to reduce their individual carbon footprints, upskilling and green job creation, buying local, conserve water, and with sustainable lifestyles and Eatwell guidance.
- Promote schemes which help residents, landlords and housing associations reduce energy bills and decarbonise their buildings e.g. retrofitting grants and

the government domestic and non-domestic renewable heat incentive programme.

- Support and encourage residents, businesses and the third sector to install renewable energy generation or develop community energy projects, by providing information and promoting grants, shared investment, and savings schemes.
- Encourage residents to separate food and recyclables, use appropriate bins, compost at home, avoid contamination and reduce waste production through promoting the circular economy strategy.
- Support residents, schools and community groups with biodiversity improvement and protection, promoting relevant schemes, such as tree planting and after care, and encouraging them to enhance biodiversity in their gardens and grounds.

Action 8.2 Provide staff awareness information of biodiversity and climate change at induction and provide job specific sustainability training to each service area.

Action 8.3 Enable local businesses to reduce their carbon footprint by providing information on funding opportunities, carbon calculators, localised supply chains and travel plans that promote active travel and public transport, and support businesses to use the Kent Prepare website to raise awareness of how to prepare for flooding.

Sustainable decision-making processes and governance

Action 9.1 Provide briefings and training for councillors and our managers on carbon, climate change, and biodiversity to create a culture change and ensure climate change and biodiversity are integrated into decision making.

Action 9.2 Ensure service plans consider biodiversity and climate change and monitor with performance indicators, so that managers plan their services to ensure opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change are taken.

Action 9.3 Deliver Policy that ensures sustainability criteria is used for all Maidstone Borough Council construction of new buildings (offices, housing, leisure facilities) and sustainability criteria is part of decision-making process for all Maidstone Borough Council building acquisitions, to ensure buildings owned by the council are sustainable, future proofed, and align with our net zero commitment.

Action 9.4 Establish criteria for investment in climate change and biodiversity and invest to save schemes (eg. renewables, heat networks). These will consider relative impact in terms of carbon reduction and ease of delivery, such that expenditure is focused on deliverable, affordable initiatives that maximise impact on the carbon reduction targets.

Action 9.5 Deliver corporate policy and sustainable procurement approach to reduce (Scope 3) MBC carbon footprint from contracts and services and ensure a 'carbon cost' is part of procurement and decision making.