

Biodiversity and Climate Change *Successes*

37% ↑
in Euro 6 bus fleet from 2019



Over **80%** LED lighting
in MBC carparks



27 Businesses
now listed on MBC's
Sustainable Business
Directory



5,000
Trees planted
on private land

3 Large scale solar projects
approved by Cabinet



20% ↑
Biodiversity Net Gain
adopted in Local Plan Reviews



8 Planning officers
received Biodiversity
Net Gain training

99 Solar panels
and **4** retrofit batteries
installed in
Maidstone under
Solar Together
scheme



£404,796
Awarded to **19** Community Hubs
under the
Rural England Prosperity Fund

Further
0.7% ↓
(16tCO₂e)
reduction in overall
carbon emission
from the Council's Scope 1 and 2
between 2022/23 fy and 2023/24



20 Additional Officers,
Members and
Parish Councillors
certified Carbon Literate



Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan Status

The following table breaks down the status of each action in the Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan and details the relevant Portfolio Holder, the responsible officers, the previous status of the action in November 2022 (if applicable following the changes to the action plan's annual review), and the updated status for each action as of September 2024.

There are a total of 38 Actions across the Biodiversity and Climate Change action plan.

Status	Number of Actions
Action not yet due	2
Delayed	2
Being Investigated	7
Planning and Development	
Being Implemented	27
Complete and being monitored	

Action	Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officers	September 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
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.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Alison Broom William Cornall Rob Jarman Karen Britton Tom Gilbert	The new ISTS is in the early stages of scoping the parameters at present. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan prioritised routes were out to consultation 22 July to 19 August 2024, results are being analysed. MBC is framing a robust response to the KCC consultation on Local Transportation Plan 5, promoting active travel, high quality public transport and improved pollution mitigation.	NA	Early 24	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
Action 1.2 Deliver policies that enable infrastructure for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low carbon transportation, Active travel, and that Facilitates high quality public transport connectivity in new developments and existing communities. 	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Alison Broom William Cornall Rob Jarman Karen Britton Mark Egerton Tom Gilbert	No update at present. Monitoring of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Authority Monitoring Report is in progress and will be finalised by December 2024.	Percentage change of low carbon transportation, active travel, and public transport	2017	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
Action 1.3 Identify low carbon transportation, active travel, and public transport indicators that align with strategic planning and monitor	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Alison Broom William Cornall Rob Jarman	Monitoring of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Authority Monitoring Report is in progress and will be finalised by December 2024.	Percentage change of low carbon transportation, active travel,	2017	Across timeline to 2030	Being implemented

Action	Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officers	September 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
implementation of sustainable transport policies.		Karen Britton Mark Egerton Tom Gilbert		and public transport			
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.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Mark Green Katie Exon	Officers are investigating standardising policy for MBC developments to incorporate where possible, sustainable travel initiatives. Lockable bike sheds have been installed in the town centre.	NA	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
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.	Clive English Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Enforcement Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Jen Stevens	A draft strategy is being produced by Parking Services based on current BEV data. This will be brought forward for decision later in the year. Discussions also remain ongoing about on-street charging infrastructure with Kent County Council funded by Government.	Total devices in Maidstone: 66 Devices per 100,000 people: 37.3 below the 55.7 average for England Total 50kWh or rapid devices: 27	Late 2024	2025	Being Implemented
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.	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and	John Littlemore Lorraine Neale	Two rapid charging points at Sittingbourne Road car park are under investigation. There are no further plans to implement further charging points as this is dependent on Kent County	Number of Electric Vehicle Charging Points Installed	2023	9 by 2025 12 by 2030	Being implemented

Action	Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officers	September 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
	Nature Recovery		Council Highways and no local plans are in place.				
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.	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	John Littlemore Lorraine Neale	This is a joint Kent Project. Last meeting with Kent County Council 05/02/24 – Kent County Council to research area of licencing issues that are disincentivising driver and look at highlighting this with district leads and members The Head of Housing and Regulatory Services will raise this in the next Licensing Partnership Board meeting on 16/09/24.	Number of EV taxi	2023	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
Action 1.8 Actively identify opportunities to work in partnership to ensure that the borough's infrastructure is bus friendly.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Tom Gilbert Duncan Haynes	Approval to form a Local Bus Focus Group was given by cabinet member decision 19/02/2024 Implementation has been on hold until the formation of new administration and priorities. Environmental Health and the Director of Regeneration and Place had initial positive discussions about the improvement of the Arriva bus fleet to remove any non-euro 6 buses. However, the Arriva director has since stopped responding to communication. The bus fleet has however improved	Improvement in Borough Air Quality	n/a	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

Action	Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officers	September 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
			significantly from 2019 to 2023 but a number of buses are still below Euro 6 standard				
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.	Simon Wales Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	John Littlemore Philip Jennings	The Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 grant will soon close for new applications at the end of September. The government led grant has been reduced to include funding for a maximum of 18 properties. The works on the properties must be completed by March 2025. Unfortunately, after several meetings with Eon to partner to promote and administer ECO Flex (Energy Companies Obligation) to increase ECO's eligibility criteria, Eon have subsequently pulled back. Further work is required to find an alternative provider and make the Council's ECO Flex statement of intent ready for implementation.	Number of residents with EPC rating improvements of A-C from D-G	2023	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
Action 2.2 Enforce Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.	Simon Wales Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	John Littlemore Philip Jennings	Enforcement of the regulations has improved over 670 rented properties from EPC F and G to EPC A-E. Landlords may apply for exemptions for their properties. (50 properties have exemptions). A small number (8 properties) are still in the process of either being	As above	2023	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

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			<p>improved or the landlord being fined.</p> <p>Further Energy Performance Certificates are entered on the database monthly, and these must be checked further.</p> <p>The Landlord forum has also been used to disseminate information to landlords.</p> <p>The Council's Accommodation Standards Policy has been amended so that only dwellings with an EPC of A to C (D in exceptional circumstances) will be used to place homeless households.</p>				
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.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Rob Jarman Karen Britton Mark Egerton Thom Hoang	<p>The draft Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document included a set of policies which meet this action.</p> <p>The team is reviewing and revising this document and its draft policies to ensure their soundness and effectiveness.</p>	Percentage of onsite renewable energy generation in new developments 10% adopted standard	2022	Adoption expected 2025	Being Implemented
Reducing Waste							
Action 4.1 Investigate recycling strategies in the Town centre.	Clive English Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Enforcement	Jen Stevens John Edwards	The recycling of street litter by town centre operatives has now commenced. The operatives separate out recyclables from other waste in clear sacks, which are taken to the Council's waste transfer station and sent	NA	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

Action	Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officers	September 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
			for recycling to N&P's Crayford Recycling Facility. Further options are being explored to extend this to litter picking volunteers.				
Action 4.2 Ensure MBC offices and buildings have recycling facilities.	Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Mark Green Katie Exon Jacqueline Tolhurst Charlotte Featherstone Angie Smith	Officers are investigating contract terms for recycling at Maidstone House, with plans to conduct a waste audit, survey for staff, and communications to start recycling at the office.	Increase in office recycling and reduction in waste	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Being Investigated
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.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Rob Jarman Mark Egerton Thom Hoang	The draft Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document included a set of policies which meet this action. The team is reviewing and revising this document and its draft policies to ensure their soundness and effectiveness.	NA	2022	2025	Being Implemented

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Action 5.2 Identify actions to mitigate climate change in existing developments.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager Angie Smith	Three large scale Solar Projects on Council sites were approved to go forward by Cabinet 24-8-24. Match Funding from Southeast Rivers Trust NBS project approved by Cabinet 24-8-24.	NA	2023	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
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	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager Angie Smith	No Impact Assessment Planned. Officers continue to seek partnerships on tree planting and nature-based solutions with private landowners of flood elevation efforts. 5000 trees planted in private <u>partnership to support local agriculture.</u> Officers support planting of 14 urban trees community Tree planting on Chamberlain Avenue, Burns Road, Pitt Road in Barming, Maidstone. The Newsletter and projects such as the Maidstone Eco Hub comprise climate adaptation information and awareness raising of climate impacts to raise awareness throughout the	NA	2023	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

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critical infrastructure ensuring more resilient communities.			community and local businesses. Parish Council Environment Network will receive a presentation in October.				
Enhancing and Increasing Biodiversity							
Action 6.1 Monitor Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to adopted 20% standard.	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Mark Egerton Thom Hoang	Policy LPRSP14A: Natural Environment of the LPR (adopted in March 2024) contains a requirement for 20% BNG subject to other considerations. This requirement regarding the 20% BNG will be monitored. MBC officers continue to research potential habitat banks for BNG. MBC have invested in software (Mycelia) and training to effectively monitor BNG across the 30-year mandatory period. MBC provided BNG briefing to Councillors on 24/6/24 and BNG training for officers was delivered on 11/7/24. Updates to BGN information in planning applications has been added as part of the consultation on recent changes to the Local Validation List, see: Local Validation Requirements (2024 Review) Let's Talk Maidstone (engagementhq.com) The last meeting of the BNG working group was April 2024, the next meeting will be held	Percentage of planning applications meeting Biodiversity Net Gain 20% adopted standard	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Being Investigated

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			when the new Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager joins.				
Action 6.2 Ensure sustainable urban drainage schemes (SuDS) maximise biodiversity potential.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Mark Egerton Thom Hoang	The LPR was adopted in March 2024. The draft Design and Sustainability Development Plan Document included a set of policies which meet this action, particularly Policy ON5: Sustainable Drainage Systems. The team is reviewing and revising this document and its policies to ensure their soundness and effectiveness.	Percentage of planning applications meeting Biodiversity Net Gain 20% adopted standard	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Being Investigated
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.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management	Mark Egerton Thom Hoang	Preliminary work has started following the adoption of the Local Plan Review.	NA	2024	Across timeline to 2030	Being Investigated
Action 6.4 Enhance and expand wetland coverage across the Borough to support nutrient neutrality, flood prevention, and enhance biodiversity.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management Mike Summersgill	Mark Green Rob Jarman Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	The Council has agreed to fund Southeast Rivers Trust (SERT) to develop natural flood management schemes over the six months to March 2025, with an initial focus on the River Sherway, a tributary of the River Beult. The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board will	Water quality	2022	2025	Being Investigated

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	Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Lucy Norman	<p>match the Council's contribution by funding schemes identified as feasible and deliverable in 2025/26.</p> <p>Heathlands, which is allocated in the local plan review includes policy requirements to improve the water infrastructure in the locality, to include improvement the existing wastewater treatment plant which will mitigate nutrient neutrality issues to the local community and broader locality</p> <p>The Parks team has facilitated pond creation projects at Buckland Hill Pocket Nature Reserve and habitat enhancement along sections of the River Len and is currently investigating the potential for new wetlands at a number of other MBC owned sites.</p>				
Action 6.5 Implement a Nature Recovery Strategy, linking habitat restoration and creation to improve flood protection and water quality.	<p>Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management</p> <p>Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and</p>	<p>Rob Jarman</p> <p>Anna Stevens</p>	<p>The LNRS is being developed as part of the MS4N (Making Space for Nature) initiative which government has funded KCC to deliver. The current timeframe is that the draft LNRS will be consulted on in January 2025, with final publication in May 2025.</p> <p>Officers have been working with KCC and other districts to agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing</p>	NA	2025	Across the timeline to 2030	Not yet Due

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	Nature Recovery		<p>areas for nature, map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals, and identify locations where the creation or improvement of habitat is most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment.</p> <p>The Council has confirmed a Nature Recovery Declaration, evidencing commitment and leadership to stemming the decline in local biodiversity</p>				
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.	Tony Harwood Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Rob Jarman Anna Stevens Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager Angie Smith	Call for Tree planting/rewilding projects and sites still active on MBC website. Officers will continue to identify partners.	NA	2025	Across the timeline to 2030	Not yet Due
Action 6.7 Increase borough canopy cover expanding ancient forests and reconnecting of existing woodland including urban woods,	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	Officers continue to seek partnerships on tree planting and nature-based solutions with private landowners of flood elevation efforts. 5000 trees planted in private partnership to support local agriculture.	Number of Trees planted / area of land rewilded	2022	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

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and greening town centres.	Nature Recovery						
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.	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	Offsite Provision for BNG report went to CTCES-PAC on the 8-7-24, and more information was sought by members. The report will go back to PAC once wider aspects of off-site BNG, and an examination of current MBC landholdings of mature woodland condition.	NA	2022	Across timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
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,	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources Clive English Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Enforcement	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager Mark Green Katie Exon Darren Guess Charlotte Featherstone	The Maidstone House Decarbonisation Project is well under way utilising the Salix PSDS 3c grant of £3.1 awarded in early 2024. The final stages of preliminary design & development has been reached and the Salix PSDS grant of £3.1m is on track to be spent in full by 31st March 2025. The full scope of the project has been realised and costs have increased to incorporate other compulsory repairs and maintenance that were identified. Once completed circa September 2025 the project aims to reduce the Councils total carbon by approximately 361.8 tCO2e per year equivalent to a fifth of the Council's total	Percentage Change of Carbon Emissions from MBC Buildings, Fleet, Contracts (i.e. Scope 1, 2)	2022	2030	Being Implemented

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<p>(iv) incorporating energy saving principles into office strategies, and</p> <p>(v) supporting staff to shift to electric/ultra-low emission vehicles, public transportation, and more flexible working.</p>			<p>emissions. Further examined calculations of direct and indirect carbon savings and other product recycling at end-of-life calculations are underway.</p> <p>It was raised at the Climate Transition, Corporate and Environmental Services Policy Advisory Committee and Cabinet in July 2024 that full information of the materials lifespan, particularly in the case of Solar Photovoltaic Panels should be made available and considered as part of the full initiative. These facts will be produced as well as details regarding ethical considerations in respect of Modern Slavery.</p> <p>During detailed project planning, a decision was reached to expand the Decarbonisation Project into a Decarbonisation Programme incorporating four other projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 2- Installation of Solar PV & Green Roof Renewal at The Link, • Project 3- Maidstone House 4th Floor Refit, • Project 4- Decant of Occupants at Maidstone House & The Link, 				

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 5- LED and car park upgrade at Maidstone House. 				
Action 7.2 Measure the Council's carbon footprint each year and report findings to relevant committees and the public.	<p>Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery</p> <p>Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources</p>	<p>Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p> <p>Katie Exon</p>	There has been a further 0.7% (16tCO2e) reduction in overall carbon emission from the Council's Scope 1 and 2 between 2022/23 and 2023/24.	<p>Carbon Footprint Dashboard</p> <p>Percentage Change of Carbon Emissions from MBC Buildings, Fleet, Contracts (i.e. Scope 1, 2 and 3)</p>	2022	Across timeline to 2023	Being Implemented
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).	<p>Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery</p> <p>Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources</p>	<p>Mark green</p> <p>Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager</p> <p>Katie Exon</p>	The Council is currently procuring conventional electricity and gas. As part of its Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan, the Council aims to purchase 100% renewable energy for its buildings and operations where it controls the supply. The Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) scheme is a common method to ensure the energy procured is renewable. However, REGO prices have increased significantly, from £1.45/MWh in 2021-22 to an estimated £11/MWh for 2023-24. For MBC's portfolio with Laser Energy, the cost for REGOs for Oct 2023-Sep 2024 is approximately £55,320, excluding two high-energy	NA	2022	Across timeline to 2023	Delayed

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			users, namely the Leisure Centre, and Lockmeadow Entertainment Complex, who sit with other energy companies. It is recommended that while the REGO market is expensive and the national grid cannot meet growing demand for fully renewable production, the Council instead prioritise reducing carbon costs directly from our operations and invest directly in decarbonisation and renewable energy instillations.				
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.	Simon Wales Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	William Cornall John Littlemore	All Temporary Accommodation is EPC grade C post-acquisition and pre-occupation	NA	2023	Across the timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
Action 7.5 Improve data management on all property including leased buildings and prioritise	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate	Katie Exon Biodiversity and Climate	Officers working with our managing agents and Laser energy have improved the data management for our key occupational and investment	Percentage change/reduction in Utility costs/KWh for	2023	Across the timeline to 2030	Being implemented

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decarbonisation actions and improve EPC ratings.	Transition and Nature Recovery Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Change Manager	property. MBC are about to embark on significant work to decarbonise Maidstone House, these works when complete will allow for improved data collection. In addition, the council undertook work to improve the EPC ratings on industrial units within the Parkwood Estate. When these units become vacant and back into the Councils possession, an assessment of any works required to improve the EPC is undertaken, works completed prior to the premises being marketed.	Gas, Electricity, Water usage at leased assets.			
Action 7.6 Deliver 100% LED lighting in MBC carparks.	Clive English Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Enforcement	Jeff Kitson	At last count over 80% of lighting were LED. Lamps are being replaced with LED as and when they require replacement, usually within 5-6 years and most are approaching this age, it is strongly anticipated this will be within the 2025 target. An updated count is planned for early 2025.	NA	2022	2025	Being Implemented
Communications and Engagement Strategy							
Action 8.1 Support residents (including adults, women, youths and children, faith groups, minority groups, and marginalised groups), partners, and	Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and	Angie Smith Julie Maddocks	Maidstone Eco Hub is planned for 26 th of October to 9 th of November, building on the success of the previous two Hubs. This year there will be a greater focus on business and employment alongside the usual	NA	2022	Across the timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

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<p>wider stakeholders (Parish councils, farmers, and landowners) to understand the changes they can make to reduce and prepare for climate change. Including:</p> <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. Support and encourage residents, businesses and the third sector to install renewable energy generation or develop community energy projects, by providing information and 	<p>Nature Recovery</p> <p>Dave Naghi Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Safety</p>		<p>activities, running green information sessions for a range of business, advice on grants and working with Mid Kent College to provide advice on green careers.</p> <p>Officers are supporting the roll out of solar together phase 4, using the referral fees from phase 3 to finance phase 4.</p> <p>The Communications team continues to support the Biodiversity and Climate Change team in promoting projects that they have and designing any required posters, leaflets or marketing material needed. These include Solar Together and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).</p> <p>The Communication Team also continues to work with the team to produce and publish a regular environmental newsletter.</p> <p>£404,796 has been awarded to 19 Community Hubs under the Rural England Prosperity Fund</p>				

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<p>promoting grants, shared investment, and savings schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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>Stuart Jeffrey Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Angie Smith</p>	<p>75 % staff have completed the biodiversity and climate change induction training.</p> <p>Depot Staff Carbon Literacy training was conducted in February 2024 with 4 officers certified Carbon Literate.</p>	<p>Number of Staff carbon literate accredited</p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Across the timeline to 2030</p>	<p>Being Implemented</p>

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			Further Carbon Literacy sessions for staff are scheduled for September 2024.				
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.	Stephen Thompson Cabinet Member for Healthier Stronger Communities	Julie Maddocks Chris Inwood Angie Smith	<p>Economic Development continue to feature a 'green tip' in every monthly Business E-newsletter and promote relevant business support schemes and grants when made available. Through the newsletter and Business in Maidstone Social Media channels to increase audience awareness</p> <p>There has been an 84% increase in business newsletter sign ups since 2021 to 8,700 with an average 39.5% average monthly open rate.</p> <p>The climate change website now includes a page for businesses, providing resources, links, and information to assist businesses in improving their sustainability.</p> <p>Communications continues to work with the Biodiversity and Climate team to produce the E-newsletters promoting schemes and grants when they are available. They also work with the ED team to produce material to be used in the business newsletter.</p>	NA	2022	Across the timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

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			Business events are being organised as part of the Eco Hub.				
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.	Stuart Jeffrey Leader of the Council Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Angie Smith	Members Carbon Literacy Training was held in spring 2024 with 5 certificates achieved. 8 current members are now certified Carbon Literate. Further training for members is planned for Autumn 2024. Parish Council Carbon Literacy training was conducted in March 2024 with 11 certificates achieved. See 8.2 for update on managers training	Number of Councillor Carbon Literate accredited	2023	Across the timeline to 2030	Being Implemented
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.	Stuart Jeffrey Leader of the Council Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery	Carly Benville Anna Collier Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	Service planning for 2024 is now complete and the next round of service planning will be undertaken after agreement of new strategic priorities. New KPIs were agreed in March 2024 are now in place, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage reduction in carbon emissions - Buildings (scope 1 and 2) Percentage reduction in carbon emissions - Fleet Size of areas rewilded through MBC schemes (volume of land) 	NA	2023	Across the timeline to 2030	Being Implemented

Action	Portfolio Holder	Responsible Officers	September 2024 Update	Key Performance Indicator	Likely Start Date	Likely Completion Date	Progress
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trees planted (through MBC planting initiatives) <p>A New KPI dashboard is in beta testing which will allow committees to monitor performance monthly.</p> <p>Carbon footprint dashboard has been refreshed in Apr/May 2024 showing 23/24 data.</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.	Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Mark Green Adrian Lovegrove Angela Woodhouse Anna Collier Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	<p>Briefing on social value was considered by Wider Leadership Team.</p> <p>The next step is an assessment of our scope 3 emissions, work has begun on the procurement of a system to assess our suppliers, this work has been delayed due to the departure of the last Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager and will restart when the new Manager starts in November.</p>	NA	2023	2024	Delayed
Action 9.4 Establish criteria for investment in climate change and biodiversity and invest to save schemes (e.g.	Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for	Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	Officers have developed a business case for solar investment, and to maximise solar PV on MBC owned assets.	NA	Due to start in late 2024	2025	Being Investigated

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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.	Corporate Resources Mike Summersgill Cabinet Member for Climate Transition and Nature Recovery		Officers are also supporting heat network policy development and feasibility in Maidstone. Council house building programme where the council is responsible for securing planning permission, all such permissions have been and will be sought on the basis of meeting the future home standard.				
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.	Kathy Cox Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources	Dan Hutchins Adrian Lovegrove Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager	Corporate Services Policy Advisory Committee. agreed adoptions of two new policies and one new statement on 14th December which have been implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Procurement Policy • Social Value Policy • Modern Slavery Statement Procurement are embedding these as part of the procurement process consider both environmental and social value in their appraisal process. Biodiversity and Climate Change Manager will also investigate how to calculate scope 3 emissions with suppliers and contracts in 2024.	Carbon footprint dashboard	Due to start in late 2024	2025	Being Investigated