

**Appendix One**  
**Medway Climate Change**  
**Draft Outline Action Plan 2019-2024**  
**Proposed Activities**

**Background**

In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, stated that “global warming is likely to reach 1.5C (above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052) if it continues at its current rate”. It also stated, that global warming could be halted should emissions reach and be sustained at “net zero global CO2 emissions”.

In response, in April 2019 Medway Council declared a climate emergency and committed to:

- reduce its carbon footprint and provide the local community with a clean, green future and be a place people want to work and live, which has a sustainable future.
- establish a clear action plan for Medway to deal with climate change, setting out an achievable and clear timeline

**Summary**

A 5 year action plan will be developed to support Medway’s aspiration to be recognised as a City of Culture in 2025.

The action plan will focus on:

- Actions to reduce/eliminate the council’s own carbon emissions
- Actions to support others to work towards net zero emissions in Medway
- Actions to promote climate resilience

**Strategy**

The council has contributed to the development of the emerging Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (KMELES). It is a sub strategy of the Kent Environment Strategy. The KMELES sets a net-zero target of 2050 across the county, with significant action required in the next ten years to achieve this.

The KMELES identifies 7 priorities (grouped under three themes from the Kent Environment Strategy):

**Theme 1 - *Building the foundations for delivery***

1. Bridging gaps in understanding
2. Influencing strategy and policy
3. Building resources, capabilities and changing behaviour
4. Monitoring and Evaluation

**Theme 2 – *Making best use of existing resources, avoiding or minimising negative impacts***

5. Improve our resource efficiency

6. Support sustainable access and connectivity for business and community

### **Theme 3 – Towards a sustainable future**

7. Influence future sustainable growth for the county of Kent

At the time of writing this document, the strategy is being finalised. Further detail about what the seven priorities mean for Medway will be included in the final version of this document once the strategy has been finalised. Ten high level actions have also been identified for inclusion in the strategy and these will also be referenced. It is anticipated that the final KMELES will be presented to Kent and Medway Chief Executives by early Spring 2020 for approval alongside an implementation plan for Kent and Medway. Medway's Climate Change action plan will support the KMELES and implementation plan.

Concurrently, a Kent Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment (CCRIA) and an Adaptation Action Plan are being developed for circulation by the end of March 2020. The assessment will identify adaptation priorities at a district level based on the most significant risks in terms of resilience to climate change i.e. risk of flooding. The Adaptation Action Plan will set out proposed adaptation measures which will further inform Medway's Climate Change action plan.

#### **How will the Strategy be put into action?**

As the largest contributors to carbon emissions in Medway, reducing domestic energy consumption and supporting residents to live in more energy efficient homes and reducing emissions from transport will be key targets of Medway's Climate Change action plan. But we know there is more that can be done.

It is likely that the action plan will consider a series of actions that address climate change in Medway across the following delivery areas:

- Energy Management (public, domestic and business) – including renewables
- Transport and Air Quality
- Planning and Development
- Water and Flooding
- Biodiversity
- Waste Management

We will consider setting an emission reduction pathway for Medway across all of these sectors against a recommended carbon budget.

We will also consider setting an emission reduction pathway for the emissions related to our own operations.

In order to do this, we have commissioned a technical expert to analyse our current carbon footprint, referencing a baseline "do nothing" scenario against future target years. Understanding the carbon impact of proposed projects and the financial implications will further help us to understand where to focus our resources to have the biggest impact. This work is essential in order for us to set short, medium and long term actions and meaningful targets.

It is anticipated that we may need to identify further projects which will help us to achieve carbon neutrality across Medway, through offsetting or sequestration.

The actions will support the overarching KMELES and link to other existing and emerging strategies and plans.

A communications and engagement strategy will be developed to increase awareness, encourage discussion and action. We will work closely with our communities to understand what their priorities are, to learn from and support them in making behavioural changes.

The emerging action plan will be a live document which will be updated as progress is made and/or if circumstances change. It is anticipated that the action plan will be finalised and presented to Cabinet for consideration in November 2020. This is subject to the results of the carbon assessment and the potential requirement for further work.

**Outline plan:**

We feel it is important to show an outline of the work we intend to do and to give an indication of the projects currently being considered. The detail behind these will come once we have a better understanding of our projected carbon pathway and our higher level aims have been agreed.

Progress has already been made on some initiatives since declaring a climate change emergency. We know that these actions are positive steps towards tackling the climate crisis and will lead to further progress.

The following table sets out some initial actions.

<b>Draft Outline Action Plan</b>		
<b>Year One:</b> April 2019-March 2020	<b>Year Two:</b> April 2020 – March 2021	<b>Years Three to Five and Longer Term</b>
<b>Operational and Governance</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish clear governance arrangements including a Member Advisory Board and Officer Steering group ✓</li> <li>Include climate emergency programme in the refreshed Council Plan to ensure future decisions across the Council are consistent with reaching net zero (IN PROGRESS)</li> <li>Include carbon impact and environmental considerations in council reports (IN PROGRESS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint dedicated Climate Change officer</li> <li>Review existing data sets and identify gaps for improved recording</li> <li>Investigate formal accreditation BSI ISO14001</li> <li>Review and improve our procurement processes (to support green credentials) in line with climate emergency – already started reviewing events framework in Year One</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategy and Action Planning</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence work on a carbon baseline assessment and explore an accelerated target date of 2030 for our own emissions ✓</li> <li>Submit resourcing proposal for consideration ahead of budget setting for 2020/21 ✓</li> <li>Engage with Kent County Council on the development of the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and make opportunities to share best practice with other districts (ONGOING)</li> <li>External funding officer to research funding opportunities addressing action against climate change, for example government grants (ONGOING)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formally adopt final KMELES (post Spring 2020)</li> <li>Agree detailed reduction pathway based on Medway area carbon budget</li> <li>Finalise Medway Climate Change Action Plan (November 2020)</li> <li>Identify key staff to take actions forward</li> <li>Refresh existing Sustainability Strategy</li> <li>Review policies for air quality, waste management and sustainability at events/festivals</li> <li>Develop a Carbon Management Plan</li> <li>Refresh Local Transport Plan</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and interrogate available sources to develop and build on district data (ONGOING)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Smart City Strategy and start to lay the foundations of a dedicated Smart City Platform (to support application and data management in relation to environmental and transport monitoring etc.)</li> <li>• Refresh Energy Strategy</li> <li>• Submit resourcing proposal for consideration ahead of budget setting for 2021/22</li> <li>• External Funding Officer to coordinate and submit a suite of climate change focused bids to bring in funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver electric buses in urban and rural areas (via Superbus)</li> <li>- Expand and promote walking and cycling routes (via Local Growth Fund)</li> <li>- Explore heat district network opportunities across Medway (via BEIS)</li> <li>- Create more on and off street EV charging points (via OLEV)</li> <li>- Expand tree planting across Medway (Forestry Commission)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Communication and Engagement</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence staff engagement including initial staff workshop ✓</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff workshop – Year Two</li> <li>• Develop an engagement and behaviour change strategy and programme/material for residents,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully developed targeted behaviour change programme</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate a dedicated Communications Account Officer to take forward initial communications work ✓</li> <li>• Create a dedicated climate change web page – to be regularly updated across all years ✓</li> <li>• Provide progress updates via Medway Matters across all years ✓</li> <li>• Insert questions around climate change in Citizens Panel (November 2019) ✓</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement: Bus operators, Medway Youth Council, Kent County Council, other district councils, SE7 Chief Execs Board (ONGOING)</li> <li>• Explore joint working and academic research opportunities with universities (ONGOING)</li> </ul>	<p>staff, businesses and schools (include Public Health angle)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore options for Kent &amp; Medway Open Data Strategy (to include KPIs for Climate Change)</li> </ul>	
<b>Energy</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete next phase of LED lantern upgrade programme (22% of the network upgraded by end of 2019) ✓</li> <li>• Commence procurement initiative (Re:fit) to retrofit energy efficient and low carbon measures in our buildings ✓</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for a Heat Mapping and Energy Masterplanning study across the Medway area (subject to success of HNDU Bid) ✓</li> <li>• Sign up to SGN initiative to allow residents to access funding for loft and cavity wall insulation ✓</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Energy supply identified and noted for adoption</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for joint Kent &amp; Medway Renewable Energy and Opportunities Mapping study</li> <li>• LED lighting conversion programme – project underway (due to be completed Summer 2022)</li> <li>• Produce energy demand map and study to investigate the potential for district heating network within the Medway area</li> <li>• Consider viable options for District Heating Network within the Medway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon neutral waste depot</li> <li>• Land purchasing for solar and energy production</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support iChoosr Solar Together scheme – “able to buy” solar panel scheme for residents (IN PROGRESS)</li> <li>• Explore options for full LED lighting conversion programme (IN PROGRESS)</li> </ul>	<p>area (subject to success of HNDU bid)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue emission reduction programme across selected council owned buildings through Re:fit Programme (Corporate Properties, Housing, Education)</li> <li>• Deploy IoT sensors to monitor energy usage in Council buildings and the optimisation of spaces</li> </ul>	
<b>Transport and Air Quality</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review grey fleet and commercial vehicle fleet to understand potential emission reductions and cost savings ✓</li> <li>• Conduct staff travel survey to assess opportunities to promote modal shift and reduce single passenger car use ✓</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for deployment of EV charging points in Medway including on street charge points, car parking charge points and work place charging points (IN PROGRESS)</li> <li>• EV bus trial – explore opportunities to encourage bus operators to make the switch to ULEV’s (IN PROGRESS)</li> <li>• Support opportunity for heat stress mitigation/living walls with Luton Junior School as part of the Cool Cities/Greenwich University project (IN PROGRESS)</li> <li>• Continue to promote the Air Quality Action plan specifically an anti-idling campaign and promotion of Green</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore recommendations of fleet review and opportunities to replace existing fleets with Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV)</li> <li>• Promote car scheme to Medway Council staff and businesses</li> <li>• Complete feasibility/demand study for EV charging points and develop strategy for deployment</li> <li>• Consider the introduction/consultation/pilot of an EV levy on local businesses to encourage increase in charging infrastructure</li> <li>• Review HR policies and develop staff travel plan</li> <li>• Trial electric pool vehicles for staff</li> <li>• School road closure trial to promote Clean Air Day</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for differential rates for CPZ permits based on vehicle emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to reduce emissions for staff travel</li> <li>• Continue to encourage investment in infrastructure and promote initiatives to encourage active travel</li> <li>• Scale up approach to sustainable travel planning for work across public and private sector</li> <li>• Continue to deploy and expand Medway’s Smart City ecosystem and Internet of Things (IoT) devices to give real-time insights and data</li> </ul>

<p>School Awards in Year One (ONGOING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote the Cycling Action Plan investment (£2m) in new and improved cycle routes (ONGOING)</li> <li>• Continue to promote active travel programme to residents (over 2000 residents participate annually in the free volunteer led schemes encouraging walking, cycling and Nordic walking) (ONGOING)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to encourage investment in infrastructure and promote initiatives to encourage active travel</li> <li>• Taxi and Private Hire fleet review, with a view to transition to 100% electric</li> </ul>	
<b>Planning and Development</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Energy policy in the emerging Local Plan (IN PROGRESS)</li> <li>• Work with developers to encourage clean growth (ONGOING)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Medway Air Quality Planning guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an adopted and up to date Local Plan with policies which promote low carbon development, transport and quality design standards</li> </ul>
<b>Businesses</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore initiatives to incentivise good practice among our businesses such as environmental excellence awards</li> <li>• Incorporate climate change action into existing Public Health workplace scheme</li> </ul>	
<b>Biodiversity and Greenspaces</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunity to create 100 miles of wildflower meadows on roadside verges. Create 30 miles of wildflower verges by end of 2019/20 (IN PROGRESS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Tree Strategy document to set clear actions and targets to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sustain existing healthy tree stock</li> <li>- increase tree cover in key urban areas and new developments (including shading for schools)</li> <li>- planting hedges along roads to improve and explore</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



	<p>opportunities for tree sponsorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- maximise the management of existing woodland estates (re-instate coppicing for biodiversity, landscape and carbon)</li> <li>- connect SSSI woodlands of the Hoo Peninsula from Upnor to Northward Hill (High Halstow).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embrace 20% target to Biodiversity Net Gain in Local Plan</li> <li>• Embrace delivery of Green and Blue Infrastructure Framework and secure s106 funds for its delivery</li> </ul>	
<b>Waste Management</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the reduction of single use plastic in the Council's own operations and within our communities (ONGOING)</li> <li>• Recycling waste education campaign (ONGOING)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Refill water stations across Medway</li> <li>• Promote initiatives to encourage businesses to recycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider opportunities for the Council to use energy from waste and links to Heat District Network.</li> </ul>

## **Monitoring**

Once the plan is finalised it will be reviewed annually to enable new challenges, opportunities and solutions to be considered. A progress update report will be presented bi-annually to Cabinet.

We will set quantifiable targets for each action once we have a baseline report to measure against. These targets will be developed in Year 2. Measuring the impact of the projects we take on will be important as we make our way towards net zero emissions in Medway. A number of key performance indicators will be developed which, along with government data, will allow us to report on progress and keep on track. In the final plan, a lead officer will be assigned responsibility for each of the projects.

Progress will be monitored at agreed intervals and where projects are not delivering what is required we will re-assess and look for alternatives. It should be noted that a balance needs to be found between time spent on monitoring and leaving it too late to be able to make a difference or the change that is required.