

## Climate Change Action Update

Action/Project	Lead Officer Responsibility	Update
<b>Operational</b>		
Carbon baseline assessment	Vicki Emrit (Environmental Services)/Rob Dennis (Capital Projects)	<p>Local Partnerships to provide initial baseline assessment report - due end of July 2020.</p> <p>Workshop (cross council) to discuss boundaries of Scope 3 emissions to be arranged for end of July/August. Local Partnerships to prepare further proposal to address support needed to take further assessment forward.</p>
Sign off on KMELES	Vicki Emrit (Environmental Services)/KCC	Covid-19 has caused delays with sign-off. KCC sign off anticipated by mid-June. Final version will be sent by email to Kent Leaders and Chief Execs for final approval and circulated.
<b>Energy</b>		
Re:fit Energy Efficiency and Low Carbon Programme	Rob Dennis (Capital Projects)	<p>Officers are working with Local Partnerships to develop and implement a retrofit programme across the council's estate which will result in energy savings. Veolia have been appointed as the Energy Services Company for this programme. Buildings currently being reviewed under Phase One of the Re:fit programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Splashes</li> <li>• The Brook Theatre</li> <li>• Lordswood Library</li> <li>• The Central Theatre</li> <li>• Gillingham Library</li> <li>• Wigmore Library</li> <li>• Rochester AEC &amp; Library</li> <li>• Rochester Library</li> <li>• Guildhall Museum</li> <li>• Medway Crematorium</li> <li>• Cuxton Library</li> <li>• Chattenden Community Centre</li> <li>• Gun Wharf</li> </ul> <p>The main energy conservation measures being considered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LED Lighting Upgrades</li> <li>• Building Controls Upgrades</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heat Pumps</li> <li>• Pump and Mechanical Upgrades</li> <li>• PV</li> <li>• Fabric Measures</li> </ul> <p>Veolia is currently undertaking a High Level Appraisal which will be reviewed in early July. This will be followed by a more detailed Investment Grade Proposal due at the end of September. Further to sign off, it is expected that a 5 month delivery programme will follow.</p> <p>Early estimates suggest carbon savings in excess of 20% of the baseline/carbon footprint of these buildings. This figure will be validated and included as a KPI of the contract in July, after which time it will be published by the Council.</p> <p>Additional special projects at High Level Appraisal stage are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Source Heat Pump</li> <li>• Solar Farms</li> <li>• EV charging infrastructure</li> </ul>
LED programme – 22%	Louise Browne (Highways)	22% of Medway’s street lighting network has been converted to LED. Mobilisation of the LED contract due to commence. Circa 26,000 lights to be replaced over a period of 27 months. Additional Central Management System (CMS) will facilitate further dimming and trimming to reduce carbon emissions.
Medway Heat District Network – Heat Mapping and Masterplanning study for Hoo, Chatham, Strood and Gillingham. <b>Successful funding application</b> to BEIS for feasibility study - £45,150.	Martin Hall (Greenspaces)	MOU sign off required so that formal grant offer can be dispatched to Medway. Consultant to be appointed. Following the findings and recommendations of the masterplanning exercise, the intention is then to conduct a techno-economic feasibility study to develop a localised, district heat network(s).
Solar Together Kent – Solar Panel group buying scheme	KCC leading/Vicki Emrit (Environmental Services)	Earlier launch delayed due to Covid-19 New dates as per below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration opens – end of August 2020</li> <li>• Direct mail to land mid September 2020</li> <li>• Auction – 6 October 2020</li> <li>• Decision phase – November/December 2020</li> <li>• Installation phase – December 2020/May 2021</li> </ul>

<b>Transport and Air Quality</b>		
Take forward recommendations under Energy Savings Trust grey fleet and commercial vehicle fleet including procurement options for small vehicle transition to EV	TBC – following service restructure. Will require cross council working group	Research underway to identify suitable replacement options for vehicles due for renewal by the end of the year, including Environmental Services vehicles.
Staff Travel Survey – results and recommendations	David Tappenden (Transport and Parking)	Report setting out recommendations requires updating in light of Covid-19 recovery plans (increased home working, new ways of working). Take to DMT for consideration.
EV charging infrastructure	Michael Edwards (Transport and Parking) from 1 July 2020, following service restructure. Will likely require cross council working group	<p>Key actions to date:</p> <p>Re:fit programme has identified locations for 32 chargers at council owned sites. Final design is anticipated by the end of August with installation complete by the end of March 2020.</p> <p>Working with KCC to explore opportunities for a county wide charging network to include council owned car parks.</p> <p>High Level Appraisal by Veolia to be programmed under Re:fit programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council owned car parks</li> <li>• Taxi Ranks</li> <li>• Country parks</li> <li>• Staff charging</li> <li>• Transition to electric grey fleet</li> <li>• Trial pool vehicles</li> </ul> <p>Introductory meeting with InfraCapital regarding private investment opportunity.</p> <p>Developed residential charge point demand survey and web content. Due to go live at the end of June. Survey will be promoted via social media.</p>
Electric buses in Medway	Michael Edwards (Transport)	<p>“All Electric Bus Town” Funding – <b>Expression of Interest submitted on 4 June 2020</b></p> <p>The submission date was delayed from end of April to early June. The announcement date on shortlisted places moving to phase 2 is anticipated as being early July.</p>
Promote car share scheme	Lucy Kirk (Environmental Services)	Currently on hold due to Covid-19.

<p>Walking and cycling investment</p>	<p>Michael Edwards (Transport)/Emergency Planning Command Structure</p>	<p>Phase 1 - between £200k and £300k for ‘quick wins’ to improve walking and cycling routes, using temporary materials such as barriers and cones. Application submitted early June,</p> <p>An emergency response to COVID-19 aimed at people having safe alternative options to public transport, which we know will experience social distancing and capacity challenges . We had to apply for this emergency funding very quickly, and identified three main areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergency footway/footpath widening to accommodate social distancing and promote active travel by installing barriers, clearing vegetation and removing pedestrian guardrail where safe to do so</li> <li>2. Footway/cycleway accessibility improvements, comprising the installation of additional dropped kerbs or temporary ramps to improve mobility for pedestrians with disabilities or those with prams and pushchairs.</li> <li>3. Cycleway improvements</li> </ol> <p>If we are successful in securing emergency funding, and subject to discussion with the Ward Members, it would enable us to look at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restricting motorised vehicle access to our major High Streets to create pedestrian zones that promote social distancing, and permit cycle access throughout (supported by appropriate line markings, temporary barriers and signs)</li> <li>• installation of contra-flow systems on some of our one-way streets, to improve cycle permeability</li> <li>• installation of new on-carriageway cycle facilities, such as lane markings and advanced stop-lines at junctions</li> <li>• installation of temporary barriers to protect cyclists from motorised traffic</li> <li>• significantly improve the provision of cycle racks in all major urban centres and outlying district centres and villages</li> <li>• further on-carriageway cycle infrastructure on main urban/suburban routes, provided they can be delivered within an eight-week window</li> </ul>
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Green School Awards	James Flower (Public Health) Lucy Kirk (Environmental Services)	<p>Have engaged with 13 schools this academic year including two secondary schools. Covid-19 has impacted the project, and the children have not obtained as much data as they would have normally. But we are still engaging with the schools and are looking forward to seeing their final projects.</p> <p>Anti-idling poster competition was extended due to Covid-19, closing date was Friday 5 June.</p>
<b>Planning and Development</b>		
Develop Energy policy	Dave Harris/Catherine Smith (Planning)	See attached briefing note
<b>Biodiversity and Greenspaces</b>		
Wildflower verge, bulb and tree planting programme	Colinda LeGall (Medway Norse)/Sarah Valdus (Environmental Services)	<p>To date: 30 miles of grass verges left to wildflower by end of 2019/20 5580sq metres of floral bulbs planted 116 trees planted in 2019</p> <p>Wildflower verge signs promoting key messages have been designed. Due to be installed by end of June. Additional comms will be included on Climate Change web page.</p>
Tree Strategy	Martin Hall (Greenspaces)	Consultant appointed and inception meeting held. First draft due mid June.
Urban Tree Challenge Fund	Martin Hall (Greenspaces) leading with support from MUGS Forum, Planning and Medway Norse	The deadline for the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) was moved back one month to the end of June 2020. Medway Council is hoping to submit a bid covering approx. 12 sites across Medway, planting approx. 15,000 whips, with a value of approx. £35,000. However, this value is reliant on the council providing 50% match, which can be constructed from costed volunteer hours, equipment and cash. At present, there is a shortfall in cash match funding. There is a strategy in place to meet this shortfall with some additional cash match funding and the value of match in kind, however cash match funding is much preferred for a stronger bid and reduced risk of financial issues down the line.

		The UTCF is being led by the council with support from the Medway Urban Greenspace Forum, Mike Sankus (Planning) and Medway Norse. This group have met regularly to develop and plan the bid. If successful, the UTCF planting will take place during the National Tree Week in December 2020, with planting being undertaken through a large group of volunteers.
Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Martin Hall (Greenspaces)	The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is a 10 year plan setting out the council's priorities for access. The Plan has just completed 3 months consultation, which reinforced the plans priorities and direction, and a report will be going to DMT to discuss next steps towards adoption. The Plan will be used to secure external funding from sources such as DfT including the Active Travel proposals, Heritage Funds and s106 requests.
Tree Sponsorship programme	Colinda LeGall (Medway Norse)/Sarah Valdus (Environmental Services)	Officers are currently developing proposals for a tree sponsorship scheme to supplement and increase Medway's existing tree stock.
Natural Climate Change solutions study	KCC leading/Martin Hall (Greenspaces)	<p>Kent County Council is commissioning a report to gain an overview of the various natural solutions for climate change, including carbon budgets and other measurable benefits. The report will include recommendations for how these opportunities can best be realised, including quick wins, suggestions for the sort of management/intervention required for longer term gains and possible policy and protection required.</p> <p>KCC intend to appoint over the next couple of weeks with the consultant starting work/holding first steering group over the summer.</p>
<b>Waste Management</b>		
Continue to support reduction of single use plastic in the Council's own operations and within Medway	Vicki Emrit (Environmental Services)	<p>Meeting held with Towards Plastic Free Medway at end of March to discuss how we can support the initiative to become a single use plastic free community.</p> <p>Content currently being developed for designated web page. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Names of businesses that have signed up to become Plastic Free Champions</li> <li>Business Champion Toolkit</li> <li>Promotion of Medway Refill scheme</li> <li>Tips on reducing plastic use at home, on the go</li> <li>Details of where Medway's waste goes</li> <li>Maritime Volunteer Service/Greenspaces work</li> </ul>

<b>Businesses</b>		
Promote Low Carbon opportunities to businesses	Wayne Saunders (Economic Development)/Vicki Emrit (Environmental Services)	<p>Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REVS – Realising Electric Vans Scheme – to be launched by KCC this summer, phasing in up to 50 vehicles that will be available to organisations to trial for up to 2 months to test whether or not they are ‘fit for purpose’ in real-life business scenarios. The scheme is funded by Highways England and the funds secured also cater for installing several rapid chargers at strategic locations.</li> <li>• Workplace charging scheme – details included on low carbon support site</li> <li>• Solar Together Kent – Solar panel buying scheme- details included on low carbon site</li> <li>• Steps to Environmental Management Scheme (STEM) - scheme helps businesses improve their environmental performance through a series of assessments and certificates</li> </ul>
<b>Schools, Universities, Colleges and Communities</b>		
	Cross Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 week intern from University of Kent appointed to support Climate Change team - anticipated start date 2<sup>nd</sup> September</li> <li>• Grow Your Own Programme –led by Medway Adult Education – developing Beginners Gardening videos</li> <li>• Air Quality and Climate Change video/presentations for schools</li> <li>• Promote home learning climate change activities for families – links to existing web content</li> <li>• Green School Awards – considering supporting climate change award – on hold due to Covid-19</li> <li>• University of Kent research opportunity – on hold due to Covid-19</li> <li>• Future engagement with Medway Youth Council to support actions in annual conference report</li> </ul>
<b>Communications</b>		
	Lynette Godwin/Jo Wilkins (Communications)	<p>Current activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logo design – complete</li> <li>• Launch “small changes” campaign including branding – currently on hold due to Covid-19</li> <li>• Infographic detailing Year One accomplishments. Due to be finalised mid June and will be promoted through social media.</li> <li>• Continue to use social media to support World/National days and tie in with planned initiatives. Content was posted in April and</li> </ul>

		<p>May to support Earth Day and International Bee Day (included on Window Display Challenge for families)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New landing page for climate change digital content with specific pages for subject areas i.e. biodiversity, plastic, EV's.</li><li>• Medway Matters article – promote Solar Together scheme and EV charge point survey.</li></ul>
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