



Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

# Corporate Carbon Descent Plan: Year 3 Progress Report

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25 July 2024



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# Progress Report

The Corporate Carbon Descent Plan (CCDP) is a crucial strategic policy outlining the Council's pathway to achieving its 2030 net zero target for both its operations and services. This update report highlights progress by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on delivering against its CCDP Year 3 Action Plan.

This progress report covers the period 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024.

## Rag Rating

Limited Progress	Partial Progress	Good Progress

## 1. Property

Ref	Activity Description	Outline	Year 3 Progress Update
1.1	<p><b>Decarbonisation Plans:</b></p> <p>Undertake a review of and develop decarbonisation plans starting initially with the larger TWBC</p>	<p>Advise on works and cost required to reduce our carbon footprint (to RIBA 3). Focus on top ten emitting properties.</p> <p><b>Phase 1:</b></p>	<p>Property services have been working to develop and understand decarbonisation opportunities across the council's highest emitting sites.</p> <p>There are several significant barriers to delivering decarbonisation measures to these sites. As such, work has focused on understanding how to overcome these barriers, whilst progressing to feasibility where appropriate.</p>

key emitting Buildings.	Town Hall, Assembly Hall Theatre and The Amelia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Town Hall &amp; Assembly Hall Theatre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The town hall heating system currently serves the town hall, theatre as well as the police station (not a council site), through a combined single loop heating system, with the boilers located in the town hall. The system is over 100 years old, however, the boilers are under 10 years old which currently prevents us from applying to Salix for decarbonisation grants. To decarbonise the site, we must engage with the police to establish how they wish us to proceed. We have advised the police that we are seeking to progress to RIBA stage 4 (detailed designs) in the coming years and would like to understand their preferences as to whether it remains a single system or whether the sites each deliver their own heating. Currently, the arrangement is carbon intensive as the police station building is thermally inefficient and uses energy 24/7. Talks with the police are making some progress, albeit slowly, and we await confirmation from them on what approach they want us to take regarding the future of the site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The Amelia Scott <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o With the appointed contractor, snagging issues raised as part of the defects and liabilities period on this site must be resolved prior to decarbonisation feasibility being developed. As such, resolving snagging issues has been the priority.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Phase 2:</b></p> <p>Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre, Putlands Sports and Leisure Centre and the Crematorium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o An initial feasibility study to re-provision facilities at the site is in progress. The Centre management contract ends in March 2027. Early supplier engagement is in progress and includes collecting the views from potential operators on opportunities for carbon reduction measures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Putlands Sports and Leisure Centre, Paddock Wood</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This site is subject to freeholder consent and linked to proposed amendments to the Submission Local Plan that would see an expansion and enhancement of the facility rather than a new Hub. Therefore, feasibility works are on hold until the conclusion of the examination of the Submission Local Plan.</li> <li>- The Crematorium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feasibility is currently underway for the reprovision of the facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.2	<p><b>Solar Panels:</b></p> <p>Assess the commercial opportunities to use Solar Panels on existing TWBC owned buildings.</p>	<p>Review the cost and impact of increasing solar panels on existing TWBC owned buildings.</p>	<p>We have instructed LASER to undertake Solar PV site surveys, develop feasibility studies, and identify CAPEX, payback periods and private wire options for multiple council sites and car parks.</p> <p>To date, high-level Solar PV feasibility has been complete for the Town Hall, Putlands Sports and Leisure Centre, Royal Victoria Place Car Park, and the Weald Sports Centre.</p> <p>LASER have now been instructed to proceed to feasibility and design for these four sites.</p> <p>We are awaiting financial modelling work for the following further sites: Torrington Car Park, Crescent Road Car Park, Cranbrook Car Park.</p>
1.3	<p><b>Power Generation:</b></p> <p>Investigate the potential to develop</p>	<p>Report to consider the options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>In house delivery</i></li> </ol>	<p>We commissioned a piece of work looking into investment options based on how a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) or UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) loan would work to TWBC. This work details payback periods, risks, and</p>

	and own power generating opportunities as a means of contributing towards TWBCs net zero target through decarbonisation and the electricity we use and managing future electricity costs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <i>Special Purpose Vehicle, council owned and run,</i></li> <li>3. <i>Special Purpose Vehicle, Joint Venture owned and run.</i></li> <li>4. <i>Special Purpose Vehicle, Council owned, and third party run.</i></li> <li>5. <i>Concession</i></li> </ol>	<p>rewards for using such funding vehicles for a private power generation scheme.</p> <p>Building on this foundational work, we received approval from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Carbon Reduction and Transport to commissions LASER to review asset opportunities for a circa 25MW site.</p> <p>As such, a UKIB report has been produced identifying borrowing options.</p>
1.4	<p><b>Energy Management:</b></p> <p>Implement effective energy management across key TWBC owned properties (excluding Leisure Centres)</p>	An effective means of monitoring and controlling carbon output and associated costs from key TWBC Buildings	We have signed up to LASER's Bureaux Service, giving improved access to bills, monitoring of energy consumption and high-level carbon performance for all TWBC sites (excluding leisure centres and the Royal Victoria Place).

## 2. Key Contracts

Ref	Activity Description	Outline	Year 3 Progress Update
2.1	Investigate Decarbonisation of the recycling and	HVO – A report assessing options, costs, and timeline to implement HVO vehicles.	Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO):

	waste contract fleet through an initial switch to HVO fuel and an investigation of the power requirements at North Farm Depot for an electric fleet.	Electrification – A report detailing what the fleet might look like, KVA for charging and infrastructure issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A report was taken to Management Board and Deep Think, highlighting opportunities and next steps for implementing HVO use into TWBC’s recycling and waste contract.</li> <li>- HVO use was approved and a £30k revenue budget cap was agreed.</li> <li>- A £15k capital application to fund the fuel storage take was submitted and approved in March 2024.</li> <li>- Work is now ongoing to operationalise this project throughout the 2024/25 financial year.</li> </ul> <p>Electrification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial work has been undertaken to identify energy capacity on the North Farm Depot site. UK Power Networks (UKPN) have now confirmed cost and substation upgrade requirements.</li> </ul>
2.2	Investigate opportunities for carbon reduction improvements to existing Grounds Maintenance Contact and new service provision from April 2027	Reports showing the costs and implications of moving toward full electrification of Grounds Maintenance vehicles and equipment	As part of the provision of the Grounds Maintenance service options will be identified and costed to move to a net zero operation.

### 3. Procurement

Ref	Activity Description	Outline	Year 3 Progress Update
3.1	<p><b>Sustainable Procurement Policy:</b></p> <p>Review impact and effectiveness of the Policy.</p>	<p>A Review of the impact of policy in terms of carbon measures introduced in each new contract and the assessment of any cost increase/reduction in service.</p>	<p>A full review was not completed in this period due to staff vacancies in the Sustainability Team.</p> <p>An informal review of the policy has taken place and future development options are being considered considering the new procurement regulations coming into force at the end of 2024.</p>

### 4. Corporate Governance

Ref	Activity Description	Outline	Year 3 Progress Update
4.1	<p>Review the ways TWBC communicates our carbon reduction, sustainability and biodiversity actions to residents and implement a communications plan</p>	<p>Keeping citizens and communities advised of the actions the council is taking and encourage participation in Carbon reduction activity.</p>	<p>Website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A review of the TWBC Climate Action website has been completed, with new pages and general update being planned for 2024.</li> </ul> <p>Communications Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A communications plan has been developed, considering how we can improve our climate change engagement through our social media channels, weekly resident emails and local magazine.</li> </ul>

	using the most effective methods		- Social media posts have been planned and developed and are now being posted and integrated into TWBCs main social media pages.
4.2	Production of a Borough wide strategy incorporating resident engagement and Cabinet approval	The development of a Borough wide strategy demonstrates the council's commitment to support carbon reduction across the Borough.	Due to staff vacancies in the Sustainability Team, this strategy was not fully developed, consulted on, and adopted in the 2023/24 financial year.  However, work has started on delivering this strategy in the 2024/25 financial year, with the strategy on the Forward Plan for consideration at the July 2024 Cabinet ahead of public consultation and adoption later in the year.

## 5. Grants

Ref	Activity Description	Outline	Year 3 Progress Update
5.1	Grants – continual review and application for decarbonisation Grant opportunities	Potential Grant funding for decarbonisation projects from PSDS, LCSF, SPSF, ACE and Museum sources.	TWBC has been successful in a bid for funding to the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF). We have been awarded a grant of £90k for the new pool covers and LED lighting at the Weald Sports Centre.