



Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Borough Climate Change Strategy Action Plan: Accessible Version

06 August 2025



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1. Our Borough Ambitions

We have developed 21 ambitions as a vision for what the borough must achieve by 2050. Our ambitions are split into seven priorities, each with three ambitions and an action plan.

A net zero borough will not be achieved and delivered by the council alone. Achieving net zero will be reliant on all of us taking action to deliver real change. These ambitions are only achievable with the whole borough working together.

In the below ambitions, where 'we' is referenced, the ambition is referring to the borough as a whole. Where Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) is explicitly referenced, the ambition is referring to the Council only.

Ambitions for our net zero borough:

Buildings:

1. We have increased the percentage of existing homes using air source heat pumps to 52% by 2040.
2. All suitable domestic properties in the borough have achieved an EPC level C (or equivalent) by 2035, where practical and cost effective.
3. All suitable commercial properties in the borough have achieved an EPC level C (or equivalent) by 2027 and EPC level B (or equivalent) by 2030.

Transport:

4. We have increased the percentage of journeys travelled through active travel methods to 55% by 2035.
5. We have grown EV chargepoint provision to at least 685 public sockets by 2030, 1,448 by 2040 and 1,631 by 2050.
6. We have electric buses in operation in the borough by 2035.

Biodiversity and Environment:

7. We have continued to increase annual tree planting and biodiversity improvements throughout the borough by the end of the 2034/35 planting season.
8. We have exceeded 10% annual biodiversity net gain by 2027.
9. We have exceeded 25% total woodland cover in the borough by 2050.

Renewable Energy:

10. We have trialled community energy projects in the borough by 2030.

11. We have increased total local solar generation by at least 1,000% by 2050, from a 2019 baseline.
12. TWBC has allocated local sites to new renewable projects in the borough by 2030 (subject to the Local Plan Review).

Waste and Resources:

13. We have increased kerbside recycling rates in the borough to 65% by 2035 and 85% by 2050, from a 2019 baseline.
14. We have reduced per capita food waste 50% by 2030, from a 2021 baseline.
15. TWBC waste collection vehicles will be fossil fuel free by 2031.

Business and Community Engagement:

16. All Schools, Parish and Town Councils will have set a net zero target and developed plans by 2030.
17. The industry and commercial sectors average at least a 4% annual reduction in CO₂e emissions, from a 2022 baseline.
18. Over 90% of residents and businesses are aware of climate change and how they can take meaningful action by 2030.

Adaptation:

19. All vulnerable residents in the borough have signed up for local flood alerts by 2030.
20. Over 90% of residents and businesses are aware of local climate risk and how they can meaningfully adapt by 2030.
21. TWBC has delivered a local climate adaptation strategy by 2030.

2. Action Plans

To deliver against our ambitions, we have made dedicated action plans detailing the work that TWBC will deliver over the coming years. These action plans are a starting point but not an exhaustive list.

These action plans cover a five-year period and will be reviewed and updated in 2030. Whilst these action plans are for the 2025 – 2030 period, our commitment to the climate emergency extends beyond this period.

This plan will be updated annually to reflect national and local policy and technological changes, funding, and capacity availability. The plans are ambitious: not all actions have immediate dedicated funding or capacity to deliver, but they identify key priorities, future direction, funding, and capacity requirements.

The following legend highlights how we will indicate cost and capacity for each action:

Cost:

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| £ | = £0 - £9,999. |
| ££ | = £10,000 - £99,999. |
| £££ | = £100,000 - £499,999. |
| ££££ | = £500,000 - £999,999. |
| £££££ | = £1,000,000 +. |

Capacity:

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 0 | = Existing capacity can deliver. |
| 0.5 | = Requires 0.5 FTE to deliver. |
| 1 | = Requires 1.0 FTE to deliver. |
| 1+ | = Required 1.0+ FTE to deliver. |

2.1. Priority 1: Buildings

Buildings Action Plan

Theme: Domestic Properties.

Objective 1: Support increased sustainability requirements for new developments through the local plan.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|------|----------|----------|
| 1.1. Implement Local Plan policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- STR2: Place Shaping and Design- STR7: Climate Change- EN1: Sustainable Design- EN2: Sustainable Design Standards- EN3: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation | Development Management | £ | 0 | 2025 |
| 1.2. As part of the Local Plan review process consider the need to review and update sustainability policies. | Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |
| 1.3. As part of the Local Plan review process consider the need to build on our reference to historic buildings in terms of embodied energy and capabilities for retrofit. | Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |
| 1.4. Review building conservation planning guidance that supports the local plan to identify if TWBC can go further to facilitate retrofitting on relevant historic properties. | Development Management / Planning Policy | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---|-------|----------|----------|
| 1.5. Work to embed retrofitting principles into the borough's design codes. | Development Management / Planning Policy | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |
| 1.6. As part of Local Plan review process, consider opportunities for district heating. | Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |
| 1.7. Planning Services to consider opportunities to investigate carbon offset funding, through the planning process e.g. S106. | Development Management / Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |
| 1.8. Lead by example, displaying sustainable development through the Town Centre Plan & Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre refurbishment works. | Development Management / Property / Sustainability | £££££ | 0 | 2025-28 |

Objective 2: Improve the energy efficiency of private rented housing in line with national regulations.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|------|----------|----------|
| 2.1. Enforce current MEES regulations to existing and new rented properties. | Private Sector Housing | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 2.2. Enforce updated EPC requirements under any future MEES regulation changes. | Private Sector Housing | ££ | 1+ | Ongoing |
| 2.3. Develop a local MEES communications campaign to encourage anonymous local reporting / disclosing from tenants living in properties in breach of the regulations. | Communications / Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |

Objective 3: Support homeowners and domestic landlords to retrofit their properties to a minimum of EPC C by 2030.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--|------|----------|----------|
| 3.1. Continue to deliver Solar Together in partnership with KCC. | Private Sector Housing | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 3.2. Share any relevant energy efficiency grant schemes available to residents such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boiler Upgrade Scheme - Energy Company Obligation Phase 4 (ECO4) - Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) - Solar Together - Energy Efficiency Assistance Loan | Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 3.3. Deliver the Warm Homes Local Grant. | Private Sector Housing | £££ | 1 | 2025-30 |
| 3.4. Deliver a free Energy Efficiency Pack scheme to residents during winter months. | Sustainability / The Amelia Scott | ££ | 0.5 | 2025-27 |
| 3.5. Deliver a pilot EPC certificate grant project to incentivise residents with no existing EPCs to obtain one. | Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2027 |
| 3.6. Produce a comprehensive local retrofit guide for residents, covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Example measures from local housing archetypes. - Example measures suitable for historic properties. - What is permitted under permitted development rights. - When to engage the planning authority and building regulations. | Building Control / Development Management / Planning Policy / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2026 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|------|----------|----------|
| - Signpost residents to relevant grant schemes. | | | | |
| 3.7. Consider the feasibility of expanding the current TWBC 'Energy Efficiency Assistance' scheme, in terms of internal delivery resources and additional loan funds. | Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026-30 |
| 3.8. Deliver a Climate Change Expo aimed at highlighting opportunities to retrofit properties and connect with local installers. | Sustainability / The Amelia Scott | ££ | 1 | 2026-27 |
| 3.9. Using fuel poverty data, develop targeted engagement and education to support those who are likely to be living in low energy efficient properties. | Communications / Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026-27 |
| 3.10. Develop and deliver a communications plan to promote the benefits of obtaining a domestic EPC rating for residents. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026-27 |
| 3.11. Deliver local retrofit talks, aimed at educating residents on steps they can take to improve the energy efficiency of their property. | Sustainability / The Amelia Scott | £ | 1 | 2026-28 |
| 3.12. Develop, expand and share retrofit and energy saving resources on the TWBC Climate Action Website and TWBC social media. | Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 3.13. For historic buildings (early 20th century and older), signpost residents to advice on best practice from Historic England on retrofitting. | Development Management / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025 |

Objective 4: Improve the energy efficiency of the social housing and temporary accommodation stock in line with national regulations.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| <p>4.1. Continue to improve the energy performance of TWBC's temporary accommodation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieving a minimum EPC level C (or equivalent). - Replacing gas consumption in each property for renewable electric alternatives. - Meeting requirements under the Renters Rights Bill. | Housing / Property / Sustainability | £££££ | 1+ | 2025-30 |
| 4.2. Continue engagement with social housing providers in the borough to understand net zero commitments and support where possible to achieve alignment with 2050 net zero. | Housing / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-26 |
| 4.3. Continue to collaborate closely with landlords providing temporary accommodation services to promote grant opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of their properties in exceedance with the standards highlighted in 2.1. | Housing / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |

Theme: Business Properties.

Objective 5: Improve the energy efficiency of commercial units in line with minimum energy efficiency standard regulations.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 5.1. Promote and encourage adherence to the MEES regulations to existing and newly rented commercial properties, working with KCC where required. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | Ongoing |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 5.2. Develop a local MEES communications campaign to encourage anonymous local reporting / disclosing from tenants working in commercial premises in breach of the regulations. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | Ongoing |

Objective 6: Support local businesses, to deliver retrofit and energy efficiency projects to their commercial properties.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---|------|----------|----------|
| 6.1. Deliver further rounds of the Business Decarbonisation Grant Scheme. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2025-27 |
| 6.2. Collaborate with partners to identify opportunities to establish large scale commercial rooftop solar schemes. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2025-30 |
| 6.3. Develop, expand, and share decarbonisation resources on the TWBC Climate Action website and the TWBC Business portal. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 6.4. Share relevant funding opportunities available to support businesses to make energy efficiency improvements. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 6.5. Engage with local business advice groups & networks to promote and facilitate ways to improve sustainability and deliver emissions reductions. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | Ongoing |
| 6.6. Consider short term discretionary business rates levers to incentivise carbon reduction in business building operation. | Finance / MKIP Revs and Bens / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2026-30 |

2.2. Priority 2: Transport

Transport Action Plan

Theme: Active Travel (Walking, Cycling and Wheeling).

Objective 7: Deliver and improve active travel infrastructure throughout Tunbridge Wells town and the wider borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--|------|----------|----------|
| 7.1. Prioritise the delivery of cycling and walking routes in the LCWIP & Strategic Plan. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £££ | 1 | 2025-32 |
| 7.2. Continue to bid for funding from Active Travel England (via KCC as the Highways Authority) to deliver active travel projects. | Economic Development | £ | 1 | Ongoing |
| 7.3. Engage with KCC to install double yellow lines along bike lanes. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026-30 |
| 7.4. Ensure that effective community engagement is undertaken for all active travel projects. | Communications / Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 1 | Ongoing |
| 7.5. Feed into plan-making process and planning applications to ensure section 106 is agreed for active travel infrastructure where appropriate. | Development Management | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 7.6. Ensure that active travel route priorities are included in all key TWBC plans and strategies and continue to seek for inclusion in KCC plans. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|-----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 7.7. Continue to embed and improve active travel policies in the Local Plan Review and RTW Town Centre Plan. | Planning Policy | £ | 0 | 2025-27 |

Objective 8: Encourage the uptake of walking and cycling in the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 8.1. Review opportunities to implement additional secure cycle parking facilities in Tunbridge Wells. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026 |
| 8.2. Investigate the possibility of bringing a bike share / rental scheme to the borough. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2027-28 |
| 8.3. Expand the promotion of adult bicycle training schemes (bike ability). | Health Team / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 8.4. Promote the benefits of active travel via various media outlets; social media channels, TWBC Climate Action website. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Theme: Public Transport and Vehicle Share.

Objective 9: Improve local bus service and infrastructure provision.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---|------|----------|----------|
| 9.1. Work with KCC to develop opportunities for the deployment of electric buses in the borough. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 9.2. Implement sustainable infrastructure requirements to improve and replace existing bus shelters through the bus shelter contract. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££££ | 0 | 2026-30 |
| 9.3. Work with bus operators and through the bus shelter contract to provide real time transport information throughout the borough. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££££ | 1 | 2026-30 |
| 9.4. Work with KCC on the implementation of their Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) including more frequent and reliable bus services. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 9.5. Through the Town Centre Plan Process, work to propose and implement improved public transport services and infrastructure. | Economic Development / Parking / Planning Policy / Sustainability | £££ | 1 | Ongoing |
| 9.6. Develop, expand, and share communications materials to encourage the use of public transport, focussing on those living in rural communities. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | Ongoing |

Objective 10: Maintain and expand the Tunbridge Wells Car Club to offer alternatives to private car ownership.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|----------|
| 10.1. Re-tender the Tunbridge Wells Car Club, following the conclusion of the existing contract. | Sustainability | £-£££ | 0 | 2025-30 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| 10.2. Expand the car club fleet within Tunbridge Wells, considering wider trial areas in the borough. | Sustainability | £-£££ | 1 | 2025-30 |
| 10.3. Introduce trial electric car club vehicles into established Tunbridge Wells sites. | Sustainability | £-£££ | 1 | 2026-28 |
| 10.4. Develop, expand, and share Car Club resources on the TWBC Climate Action website and through TWBC communications channels. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 10.5. Review existing and potential new levers to incentivise local car club use. | Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2025-26 |

Theme: Electric Vehicles and Chargepoint Infrastructure.

Objective 11: Improve local electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure (EVCI).

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 11.1. Utilise the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) to deliver EVCI on council car parks. | Parking | ££££ | 0 | 2025 |
| 11.2. Conduct a review of current electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure (EVCI) on TWBC owned car parks against existing public demand, to determine how TWBC infrastructure needs to expand. | Parking / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-26 |
| 11.3. Work closely with Kent County Council to deliver local kerbside EVCI, through the LEVI fund. | Parking / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 11.4. Work closely with Kent County Council to deliver dedicated Car Club kerbside EVCI, through the LEVI fund. | Parking / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 11.5. Work closely with Kent County Council to deliver dedicated taxi EVCI, through the LEVI fund. | Licencing / Parking / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 11.6. Engage with businesses and residents to promote grants for the installation of private EVCI. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | Ongoing |
| 11.7. Review requirements to update the TWBC EVCI guidance note for new developments beyond the existing 2020 EVCI guidance. | Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026 |

Objective 12: Promote and support the electric vehicle transition.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 12.1. Establish local incentives to transition to EVs without penalising those who are not able to make the switch. | Parking | ££ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 12.2. Engage with businesses and residents to promote existing EV charging infrastructure. | Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | Ongoing |
| 12.3. Review taxi and private hire vehicle licensing to align with Kent wide timescales for transitioning to EVs. | Licencing | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Theme: Business Transport.

Objective 13: Support businesses in their efforts to reduce transport emissions.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---|------|----------|----------|
| 13.1. Investigate opportunities to deliver a pilot last mile delivery scheme with interested local businesses. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2025-30 |
| 13.2. Investigate opportunities to provide dedicated kerbside cycle storage to businesses with limited or no access to secure cycle storage. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £££ | 1 | 2026-27 |
| 13.3. Explore appetite with local businesses to partake in a pilot e-cargo bike scheme for short (sub five mile) deliveries. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026-27 |
| 13.4. Review and where appropriate promote car share opportunities for businesses. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 13.5. Review workplace parking levy feasibility in the borough's towns and large industrial centres. | Economic Development / Parking / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 13.6. Share resources/templates for businesses via our TWBC Climate Action website. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Theme: Wider Low Carbon Transport.

Objective 14: Implement traffic and speed reduction schemes to improve safety and reduce emissions.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 14.1. In line with the Local Plan and any relevant made NDP policies, encourage the development of safer neighbourhoods where appropriate and with community engagement. | Development Management | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 14.2. Review opportunities to implement lower speed limits across residential roads in the borough. | Planning Policy | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 14.3. Develop, expand, and share communications materials to promote the benefits of car sharing. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 14.4. Encourage 'low carbon commutes' for students and parents. Promote schemes such as 'cycle to school week' as well as developing own resources. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-26 |

Objective 15: Promote and expand the TWBC anti-idling scheme.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--|------|----------|----------|
| 15.1. Review the TWBC anti-idling reporting scheme to assess public awareness, signage, and enforcement effectiveness. | EP Team Leader & Lead Officer / Parking / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-26 |
| 15.2. Promote engine idling hotspot reporting to aid enforcement clampdowns. | Sustainability / Communications | £ | 0.5 | Ongoing |
| 15.3. Work with local business and Amplifi to display signs and promote anti-idling to customers. | EP Team Leader & Lead Officer / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2025-26 |

2.3. Priority 3: Biodiversity and Environment

Biodiversity and Environment Action Plan

Theme: Biodiversity.

Objective 16: Improve biodiversity throughout the Borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|----------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 16.1. Under the Environment Act 2021, produce and publish the Biodiversity Report, detailing progress and plans to improve biodiversity across the borough. | Planning Policy | ££ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 16.2. Align and expand on biodiversity resources on the TWBC Climate Action Website. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 16.3. Ensure all management plans for council owned sites include biodiversity objectives. | Street Scene | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 16.4. Support and align with the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy through policy, development, and action. | Planning Policy | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 16.5. Engage with the community to conduct biodiversity work and continue reviewing future opportunities for community engagement. | Planning Policy / Street Scene | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 16.6. Investigate opportunities for urban greening through the Local Plan review. | Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|-----------------|------|----------|-----------|
| 16.7. Review the TWBC Biodiversity Action Plan. | Planning Policy | ££ | 0 | 2025-2027 |

Objective 17: Improve environmental outcomes for new developments.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| <p>17.1. Ensure new development complies with environmental policies in the Local Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STR8 Conserving and Enhancing the Natural, Built, and Historic Environment. - EN1 Sustainable Design - EN 8 Outdoor Lighting and Dark Skies - EN 9 Biodiversity Net Gain - EN 10 Protection of Designated Sites and Habitats - EN 11 Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation - EN 12 Trees, Woodland, Hedges, and Development - EN 13 Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees - EN 14 Green, Grey, and Blue Infrastructure - EN 15 Local Green Space - EN 16 Landscape within the Built Environment - EN 17 Arcadian Areas - EN 18 Rural Landscape - EN 19 The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Development Management | £ | 0 | 2025 |

Objective 18: Maintain an updated list of Local Wildlife Sites.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|-----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 18.1. Monitor and review Local Wildlife Sites including mapping and citations. Agree all changes through Kent Nature Partnership Board (or equivalent body). | Planning Policy | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Theme: Trees and Green Spaces.

Objective 19: Continue to increase tree planting and maintenance.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 19.1. Consider and review requirement for a dedicated street tree planting strategy, subject to LGR and street tree responsibility. | Development Management / Street Scene | £ | 0 | 2028-30 |
| 19.2. Review opportunities and requirements to increase tree planting and woodland regeneration projects. | Development Management / Street Scene | £££ | 1 | 2025-32 |
| 19.3. Review opportunities to collaborate with schools to increase perimeter tree and hedgerow planting as a means to provide a barrier to particulate pollution. | Environmental Health / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2026-28 |
| 19.4. Where appropriate, support and deliver against the High Weald AONB Management Plan objectives. | Planning Policy / Street Scene | ££ | 0 | Ongoing |

Objective 20: TWBC to continue protecting and enhancing council-owned green spaces and public realm.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 20.1. Revise the Grounds Maintenance contract specification to further embed a more nature friendly approach. | Street Scene | £££ | 0 | 2025 |
| 20.2. TWBC to work in partnership with Kent High Weald Partnership, 'Friends of' groups and local business to promote and enhance the natural environment in council parks, green spaces, schools, and community sites. | Planning Policy / Street Scene | ££ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 20.3. TWBC to work to empower stakeholders and residents to take more ownership over the improvement and protection our local green spaces. | Planning Policy / Street Scene | ££ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 20.4. Promote Tunbridge Wells in Bloom to improve public realm and green spaces and to reinforce positive environmental messages about biodiversity and pollinators. | Street Scene | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 20.5. TWBC to provide support to Parish Councils developing nature friendly projects. | Street Scene / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 20.6. Embark on a phased approach to converting existing bins in parks and open spaces to recycling bins. | Street Scene | £££ | 0.5 | 2028 |

Theme: Communication and Engagement.

Objective 21: Maintain and improve Community Engagement and volunteering for the natural environment.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 21.1. Continue to offer open access volunteer events through the Kent High Weald Partnership on Council owned sites. | Planning Policy | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 21.2. Continue to offer advice, leadership and training resources to community based environmental groups through the Kent High Weald Partnership. | Planning Policy | £ | 1 | Ongoing |
| 21.3. Provide advice to residents on how to use their gardens and allotments to promote better biodiversity, habitat creation and climate resilience. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 21.4. Support Social prescribing, Forest Schools and Health and Wellbeing events in green spaces, working with the Kent High Weald Partnership. | Planning Policy / Street Scene | £ | 1 | Ongoing |
| 21.5. Use the TWBC Climate Action Website to share stories of conservation work happening across the borough | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Objective 22: Increase opportunities to further embed community engagement into habitat management and horticultural projects.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 22.1. Embed a community engagement officer into the Grounds Maintenance contract specification. | Street Scene | ££ | 0 | 2025 |
| 22.2. Share resources for community allotments/growing schemes on the TWBC Climate Action website | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

2.4. Priority 4: Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy Action Plan

Theme: Renewable Energy.

Objective 23: Increase the number of renewable energy generation sites/installations across the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| 23.1. As part of the Local Plan review process, consider opportunities for a renewable energy site allocation if evidence shows a need for this. | Planning Policy | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |
| 23.2. Set an example by ensuring that TWBC incorporates solar onto its sites where practically and financially viable. | Property | £££££ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 23.3. Investigate options for Solar PV on council owned car parks and leisure centres, including solar canopies. | Parking / Property | £££££ | 0 | 2025-30 |

Objective 24: Understand the existing Tunbridge Wells borough energy context.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 24.1. Investigate a requirement to commission a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), to understand the change required to the Tunbridge Wells Borough energy system with future pathways and opportunities. | Sustainability | £££ | 0.5 | 2027-28 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 24.2. Explore local opportunities for district heat networks. | Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2026-27 |
| 24.3. Develop solar opportunities map to highlight to residents and businesses how appropriate buildings in their area may be for rooftop solar. | Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2027-28 |
| 24.4. Explore local opportunities and appetite for community energy schemes and help facilitate any potential projects. | Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2026-28 |

Objective 25: Work in partnership with KCC to identify, support and promote new renewable energy projects across the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 25.1. Signpost available funding to appropriate stakeholders | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 25.2. Work with the Climate Change Network energy sub-group to network with officers across the county and help with county-wide renewable energy initiatives | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |

Objective 26: Support residents and businesses to retrofit and install renewable technologies.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 26.1. Explore options for implementing sustainable design and renewable technologies for buildings in the borough, including listed buildings and sites/buildings located in conservation areas. | Development Management | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 26.2. Share relevant grants available to businesses for renewable energy generation through the TWBC Climate Action website and the TWBC Business portal. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |

Objective 27: Increase public engagement with renewable energy.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--|------|----------|----------|
| 27.1. Share information about renewable energy, funding, community energy projects etc. to residents via the TWBC Climate Action website | Communications / Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 27.2. Run surveys to gather insight into the perception of community energy in the local area. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026-27 |

2.5. Priority 5: Waste and Resources

Waste and Resources Action Plan

Theme: Resident Waste.

Objective 28: Promote good recycling practices to residents.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|------|----------|----------|
| 28.1. Commission a WRAP analysis of waste disposal trends throughout the Borough. | Street Scene | ££ | 0 | 2025-26 |
| 28.2. Investigate opportunities to permit garden waste collections. | Street Scene | ££ | 0 | 2025-26 |
| 28.3. Develop and implement a targeted recycling campaign, with a focus on areas with lower recycling in the Borough. | Communications / Street Scene / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2025-26 |
| 28.4. Develop and implement a general recycling campaign to improve rates to 65% by 2035 and review these targets against any changes to national waste schemes or legislation. | Communications / Street Scene / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2025-26 |
| 28.5. Engage with the public, schools, and communities through Borough wide behaviour change initiatives, working with the Kent Resource Partnership. | Street Scene | ££ | 0.5 | 2025-30 |
| 28.6. Continue to promote waste reduction initiatives across the Borough. | Communications / Street Scene / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |

Objective 29: Investigate and implement Net Zero waste collection.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|-------|----------|----------|
| 29.1. Re-tender TWBC's waste collection contract to be fossil fuel free for the 2031 contract renewal. | Street Scene / Sustainability | ££££ | 0 | 2025-27 |
| 29.2. Trial HVO fuel in the waste fleet to assess as a medium-term decarbonisation option. | Property / Street Scene | £££ | 0 | 2025-27 |
| 29.3. Investigate the possibility of bringing electric vehicles into the waste fleet in the long term. | Property / Street Scene / Sustainability | £££££ | 0 | 2026-30 |
| 29.4. Consider depot electrification requirements and build into TWBC budgets to deliver in the medium - long term. | Property / Street Scene / Sustainability | ££££ | 0 | 2026-30 |
| 29.5. Work with the waste collection service provider to deliver a communal food waste project. | Street Scene | ££ | 0 | 2025 |

Objective 30: Improve the recycling rates of outdoor bin stations across the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|-------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 30.1. Review opportunities and scope to implement recycling into kerbside bins through relevant council contracts. | Street Scene / Sustainability | £££ | 0 | 2025-27 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--|------|----------|----------|
| 30.2. Consider a 'leave no trace' campaign to promote reduced public littering. | Communications / Street Scene / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 30.3. Encourage/organise community litter picks and promote this work via the TWBC Climate Action website. | Communications / Street Scene / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2026-30 |

Theme: Business Waste.

Objective 31: Promote good recycling practices with businesses.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|------|----------|----------|
| 31.1. Create a campaign to promote and encourage better business waste recycling and management. | Economic Development / Street Scene / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2026-27 |
| 31.2. Work with and support partners (e.g. Amplifi, Town Square) to implement and highlight best practise waste management. | Economic Development / Street Scene / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-27 |
| 31.3. Develop resources to promote to and educate businesses on the circular economy. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2026-27 |

Theme: Resources.

Objective 32: Encourage and support residents to adopts sustainable consumption, circular economy principles, and promote shopping local to facilitate the local economy.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|--|------|----------|----------|
| 32.1. Continue to promote local repair cafés. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025 |
| 32.2. Create a water saving campaign to encourage residents to reduce their water usage. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 32.3. Develop educational and outreach materials / programmes to discuss and highlight climate conscious diet options and their benefits. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 32.4. Communicate and promote resident opportunities to donate, swap and share unwanted clothes. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 32.5. Collaborate with schools to pilot a food waste reduction programme | Communications / Street Scene / Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026-30 |
| 32.6. Work to promote sustainable consumption and circular economy principals. | Communications / Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026-27 |

Objective 33: Reduce the use of single use plastics in the council and across the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 33.1. Review route to becoming a 'Plastic Free Council.' | Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026-27 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|--|------|----------|----------|
| 33.2. Investigate the 'Surfers Against Sewerage' methodology as an option to engage residents, parish councils, businesses, and schools in reducing plastic waste. Ultimately, working towards a Plastic Free accreditation. | Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026-27 |
| 33.3. Introduce deposit schemes at council events and events on council land. | Assembly Hall Theatre / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2026-30 |
| 33.4. Encourage businesses to join the water 'refill' scheme to encourage the uptake of reusable water bottles. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026-27 |
| 33.5. Investigate options for public water refill taps / schemes. | Street Scene / Sustainability | £££ | 0 | 2026-30 |

2.6. Priority 6: Business and Community Engagement

Business and Community Engagement Action Plan

Theme: Business Engagement.

Objective 34: Support partners and stakeholders to promote and embed low carbon business practises.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 34.1. Continue to provide sponsorship and support to Amplifi to accelerate local business climate action. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 34.2. Run a business focused climate change expo to display decarbonisation measures applicable to local businesses and provide advice on progressing with such works. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £-££ | 1 | 2025-30 |
| 34.3. Support and encourage local businesses to connect to 100% renewable energy sources (either through PPA, direct wire or REGO tariffs). | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 34.4. Continue to provide a free emissions calculation tool on the TWBC Climate Action website, as a starting point for businesses looking to calculate their carbon footprint. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-30 |
| 34.5. Collaborating with key partners (The BID, Amplifi etc), identify barriers to business decarbonisation and opportunities for support. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-26 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 34.6. Identify opportunities to acknowledge and reward businesses reducing emissions and tackling climate change e.g. Love Where We Live Awards. | Communications / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2026 |

Theme: Community Engagement.

Objective 35: Engage with the community to raise awareness of climate change impacts and solutions across the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 35.1. Develop a local schools 'Path to Net Zero' climate action pledge. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 35.2. Develop a climate action guide for schools. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2025 |
| 35.3. Support local school sustainability networks. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 35.4. Consider develop a local 'Path to Net Zero' resident pledge. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 35.5. Develop a climate action information hub for residents, through the TWBC Climate Action website. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 35.6. Continue expanding the TWBC Climate Action platform to display best practise from the Path to Net Zero Pledges. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 35.7. Explore the potential to set up local youth climate conferences / networks to engage with young people throughout the borough. | Sustainability / The Amelia Scott | £ | 1 | 2026-27 |
| 35.8. Explore the potential to embed climate awareness in youth programmes through the Amelia Scott. | The Amelia Scott | £ | 1 | 2025-26 |
| 35.9. For Great Big Green Week, deliver thematic events to promote ways residents can tackle climate change. | Sustainability / The Amelia Scott | £ | 2 | 2025-26 |
| 35.10. Bring together community interest groups to help support and facilitate local initiatives. | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026 |
| 35.11. Share any relevant KCC/central government resources and grant schemes via TWBC's media channels. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 35.12. Develop a climate change communications plan to encourage action and share knowledge on different sustainability and climate change issues. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 35.13. Align with national awareness day and campaign events e.g. Earth Day, Great Big Green Week. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 35.14. Create frequent climate change consultations/surveys for residents. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Objective 36: Support the community to deliver climate action throughout the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 36.1. Deliver the Climate Community Micro Grants Scheme. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2025 |
| 36.2. Deliver local Parish and Town Council workshops to cover issues like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Footprint Development - Net Zero Strategy Development - Carbon Literacy Training | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2025-27 |
| 36.3. Deliver local workshops to schools, covering issues like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon Footprint Development - Net Zero Strategy Development - Carbon Literacy Training | Sustainability | £ | 1 | 2026-27 |
| 36.4. Work with Amplifi to engage with and support the business sector in measuring impact, identifying actions, and delivering change. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 36.5. Develop a 'Green Events Guide' to provide advice and expected standards for events being held in the Borough. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 36.6. Develop a 'Green Tourism Guide' to advise residents and tourists how best to see our borough in an environmentally friendly way. This could involve building upon existing plans such as the Visit Kent Business Sustainable Tourism Action Plan. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2026 |

Objective 37: Celebrate successful climate action across the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 37.1. Review opportunities to create a new category within 'Love Where We Live' awards which celebrates individual and community climate action. | Communications | £ | 0 | Ongoing |
| 37.2. Consider incentives / recognition opportunities for those taking and facilitating climate action locally. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2027 |

Objective 38: Lobby national government.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 39.1. Continue to lobby national government for better local government funding, improved grant schemes and opportunities for residents. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | Ongoing |

Theme: Green Skills.

Objective 39: Develop and promote green skills and job opportunities within the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 39.1. Engage and work with schools to promote climate change, what we are doing in the borough and what future opportunities green skills provide. | Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2025-30 |
| 39.2. Work with higher education providers to identify opportunities for expanding and / or creating courses to provide green skills. | Sustainability | ££ | 1 | 2026-28 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 39.3. Host a sustainable careers event. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2026 |
| 39.4. Work with the repair café to host a repair academy to support circular economy practises and teach younger residents repair skills. | Sustainability / The Amelia Scott | £ | 0 | 2025 |
| 39.5. Where possible, use TWBC procurement to facilitate internships and apprenticeships. | Procurement / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2026-28 |

2.7. Priority 7: Adaptation

Adaptation Action Plan

Theme: Adaptation.

Objective 40: Ensure that future local development considers climate change adaptation.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 40.1. As part of the Local Plan review process, consider the need to review and update climate change and adaptation policies. | Planning Policy / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-28 |

Objective 41: Ensure that the borough is aware of the potential climate impacts.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|----------------|------|----------|----------|
| 41.1. Develop a Climate Adaptation strategy (corporate and borough-wide) to sit alongside the Borough Climate Change Strategy and Local Plan (STR7: Climate Change and EN3: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation). | Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2027-30 |
| 41.2. Develop a local climate risk register to shape the development of the climate adaptation strategy. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2027-30 |
| 41.3. Develop a borough wide climate risk map, highlighting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Flood Risk Exposure- Heat Risk Exposure | Sustainability | £-££ | 0 | 2027-30 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--------------------------|------|------|----------|----------|
| - Air Pollution Exposure | | | | |

Objective 42: Increase awareness of climate change adaptation measures to stakeholders of the borough.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 42.1. Produce a dedicated page on the TWBC Climate Action website on climate change adaptation and signpost to relevant resources. | Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2025-26 |
| 42.2. Work with the local business community (Amplifi, the Bid etc) to host workshops and talks on adapting businesses to future climate change. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0.5 | 2026-30 |
| 42.3. Hold community awareness and action events to promote adaptation measures. | Sustainability / The Amelia | £ | 0.5 | 2026-30 |

Objective 43: Identify short term opportunities to support residents and businesses susceptible to climate change impacts (flooding, heatwaves etc).

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|---|---------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 43.1. Develop a communications campaign to encourage all vulnerable residents are signed up to severe weather event alerts. | Communications / Environmental Health | £ | 0 | 2027 |

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|---|------|----------|----------|
| 43.2. Trial a scheme to install smart water butts to domestic and commercial properties susceptible to flooding. | Private Sector Housing / Sustainability | ££ | 0.5 | 2027-28 |
| 43.3. Work with Amplifi to help encourage at risk businesses to develop climate contingency and business continuity plans that consider climate impacts. | Economic Development / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026-30 |
| 43.4. Working with Amplifi, look to help promote and provide climate-risk insurance (e.g. flood insurance), investigating way to harness group buying to achieve preferential rates. | Economic Development / Sustainability | ££ | 0 | 2026-30 |

Objective 44: Ensure core TWBC services are adapted to future climate scenarios.

| Action | Lead | Cost | Capacity | Timeline |
|--|-------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 44.1. Develop TWBC service plans that consider climate adaptation. | Emergency Planning | £ | 0 | 2026-27 |
| 44.2. Develop a Climate Change Risk Register with input from officers across TWBC. | Emergency Planning / Sustainability | £ | 0 | 2026-27 |

3. Version Control

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Document Name | Borough Climate Change Strategy |
| Responsible Officer | Henry Saunders, Sustainability Manager |

| Version Number | Reason for Review | Author | Date |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1.0 | Action Plan | H. Saunders, Sustainability Manager J. Berry, Graduate Climate Change Officer | 06.08.2025 |

All figures in this document are correct as of 21/07/2025.