



Strategy 2022-2030

Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of

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FOREWORD



It gives me great pleasure to present to you the council's Climate Change Strategy for 2022-30.

In June 2019, this council passed a motion pledging to make the Council's operations net zero by 2030.

We recognise the reality of climate change and the devastating impact it will have on the world future generations will inhabit unless we change our habits and the way we live now, and this was our commitment to playing our part.

Make no mistake, achieving that operations net zero status by 2030 is challenging. But what is encouraging is that the work that has gone into drawing up this strategy shows that our 2030 target is achievable.

When Members and officers sat down for the first time to plot a route to our target, the sheer scale of what faces us became clear very quickly. Whilst action to reduce emissions from council operations is in our direct control, there is also a critical role for the council to play in how we manage and maintain the council's housing stock and use our powers and influence to shape actions and behaviours in the wider borough. Responding to the climate emergency must be a key consideration of all decisions and actions the council takes.

Everyone has their own ideas of what could and should be done, but spreading our efforts too widely risks losing focus on the end target and failure to achieve our goal.

This strategy has been developed with the help of outside bodies who are experienced in the field of decarbonisation.

It identifies the quick wins and the areas where longer term planning and investment is required.

It focusses our minds and our efforts and gives structure to the changes we are making every day towards a cleaner, greener, future for the Borough.

There will be challenges and setbacks along the way, but this document will be revised, reviewed and updated to ensure those are overcome in a constructive way that keeps us on track.

I hope you find this strategy encouraging and that it prompts you to redouble your own efforts to join us as we begin the transformation of our part of the world in to a decarbonised environment for those who follow us.

Councillor John Burden
Leader of the Executive

SETTING THE SCENE



What is Climate Change?

The term **Climate Change** refers to a large-scale, long-term shift in the planet's weather patterns and average temperatures [The Met Office, 2020]. Over the past 200 years, the levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released into the air has increased, causing a rise in global temperatures which has, and is continuing to, result in long-term changes to the global climate.

Climate Change is a global problem and in 2015, a Conference of Parties (COP) was held with all countries that signed up to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention. Known as the UN Paris Climate Conference, this meeting led to a ground-breaking agreement by the 196 member countries, called the Paris Agreement, committing to the overall reduction in greenhouse gases. The agreement came into force in November 2016.

In 2008, the Government introduced the Climate Change Act 2008, which set out a legally binding target for 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels. As a result of signing the Paris Agreement, and recognising the need to do more, this target was revised in June 2019 to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050.

What is the impact of climate change?

The effects of climate change are far reaching, impacting on global temperatures and rainfall patterns, which in turn have a serious impact on the risk of flooding, heatwaves leading to increased health issues and agriculture and ability of grow crops. These are just a few of the impacts and there are many more.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change and provides regular updates on the impacts of Climate Change on our planet. In its latest report (August 2021) it highlighted the key impacts as:

- Global surface temperature was 1.09C higher in the decade between 2011-2020 than between 1850-1900.
- The past five years have been the hottest on record since 1850.
- The recent rate of sea level rise has nearly tripled compared with 1901-1971.
- Human influence is "very likely" (90%) the main driver of the global retreat of glaciers since the 1990s and the decrease in Arctic sea-ice.
- It is "virtually certain" that hot extremes including heatwaves have become more frequent and more intense since the 1950s, while cold events have become less frequent and less severe.

This provides a clear outline of the impacts of Climate Change on the planet and the need to take action to mitigate and reduce the speed at which the changes are taking place.

Specifically for Gravesham:



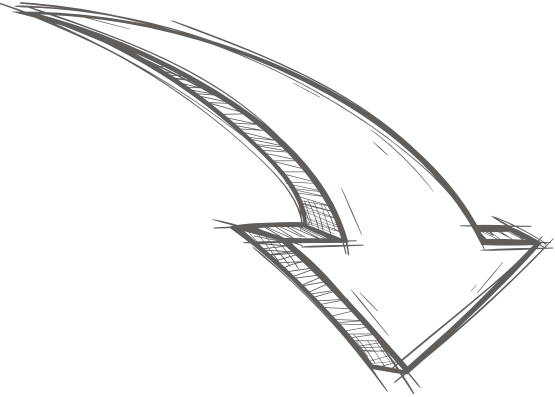
- if global temperatures increased by 2C above pre-industrial levels, the hottest summer day could be about 37.9C and if it raised by 4C it could be about 42C. In winter, the warmest winter day could peak at between 19C and 21C.



- whilst the number of rainy days each month would reduce marginally in summer months and stay roughly the same in winter months, the amount of rain would increase with the heaviest rainfall being more intense. If temperatures increased by 4C in the winter, there could be an increase in rainfall of around 40mm which is 29% higher than now.

In general as the temperatures increase, the summers are likely to be drier and hotter and the winters warmer and wetter.

Source: Data taken from the BBC - What will climate change look like near me? – website published July 2021 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/1d6338d9f-8789-4bc2-b6d7-3691c0e7d138>



What can we do to reduce the impact of Climate Change?

Action has already been taken to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emissions both nationally and locally. In 2019, the total UK greenhouse gas emission was 468.1 million tonnes (Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019). This is a 44% reduction from the level of emissions recorded in 1990 and represents around 1% of the total global emissions. Transport was the largest emitting sector in the UK in 2019, responsible for over a quarter of emissions whilst energy supply delivered the largest reduction in emissions in the UK from 2018 to 2019, as power stations continued to reduce coal use.

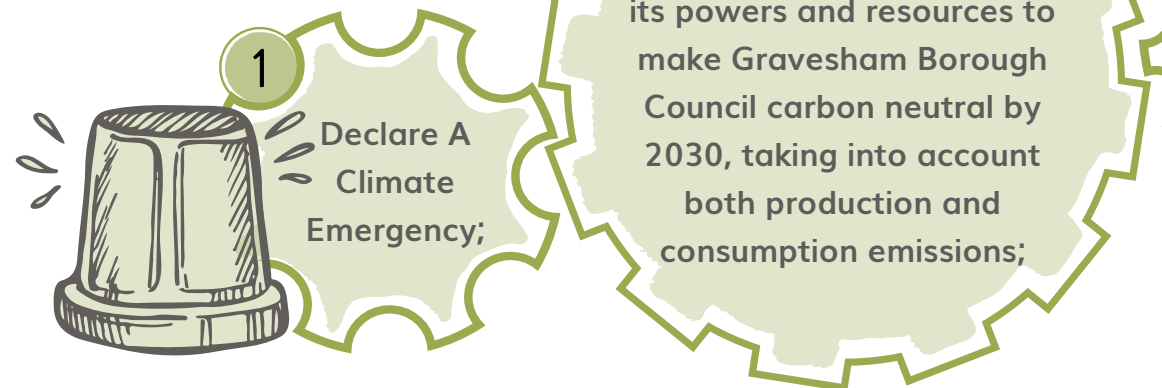
Climate Change is not something that can be tackled individually; a collaborative approach is required both across the borough, across the county and nationally. The speed at which the impacts of Climate Change become apparent can be reduced by cutting the emissions of the main greenhouse gases; carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide; and this is something we can all work together on.

Taking action to reduce the impact of Climate Change is not a new concept for the council. Whether working with residents and business to improve recycling opportunities, managing the borough's green spaces, taking action to improve its own buildings or supporting residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, the council has a demonstrable history of taking action to reduce its own emissions and enhance the environment of the borough.

GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE DECLARATION

Gravesham Borough Council with this motion declares we have a climate emergency and we will begin to take action to prepare for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

This may be a tiny step in the context of the long term global problem of climate change, but we believe the council should take a lead; taking action to reduce carbon emissions will also help make Gravesham a cleaner and more pleasant place to live in the short term. This motion calls on the Full Council to :





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Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

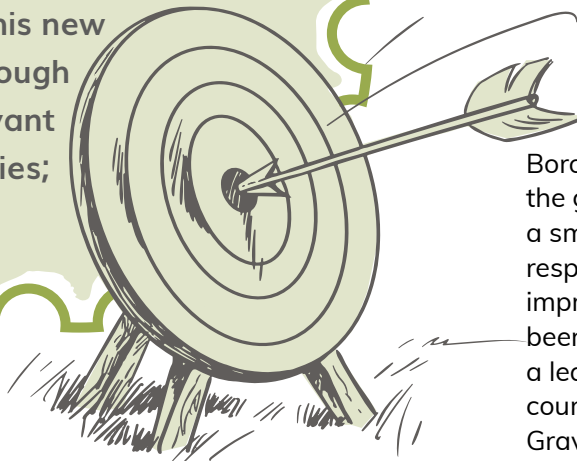


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Investigate all possible sources of external funding and match-funding to support this commitment; Complete a Green audit of all council services to ensure that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost;

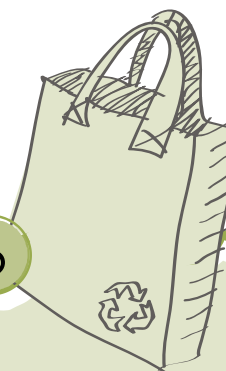
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Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;



6

The Council will encourage plastic-free initiatives and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the Borough; and



7

Set up a working group to report back within six months with the actions the council will take to address this emergency.



In response to the challenges facing not only the UK, in June 2019 Gravesham Borough Council passed a formal motion to declare a climate emergency and, accordingly, committed to Gravesham Borough Council taking a lead in achieving Carbon Neutral status. In the global context of long term climate change, this motion represented a small step but it is acknowledged that the council has a social responsibility to build on the actions it had already taken to further improve the lives of local residents wherever possible. The council has been working on delivering this pledge since June 2019 but, by taking a lead in the borough and publishing this Climate Change Strategy, the council can target its action to reduce carbon emissions, helping to make Gravesham a cleaner and more pleasant place to live in the short term.

Why 2030?

The next ten years are critical if we are to truly take decisive action and implement significant change to cut emissions levels. The Coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated how quickly we can flex and adapt to working differently, both in working and personal lives, when the impetus is there.



The Golden Thread - How we will deliver on the Declaration made

Through its adopted Local Plan, the council has in place a vision for Gravesham, which sets out that by 2028, "Gravesham will be a place where residents have access to quality housing, jobs and services that allow them to meet their day-to-day needs in an environmentally safe, vibrant and attractive borough; a Gravesham to be proud of. Residents have opportunities to improve health and accessibility will have been seized by the provision of better facilities for recreation, sport, walking and cycling. Development and growth will be well managed to ensure that local infrastructure impacts are mitigated. Whilst facilitating this growth, the borough's protected landscapes and natural habitats will be safeguarded and the impact of growth on the environment minimised."

The Corporate Plan sets the strategic direction for the council over a defined period, establishing a suite of corporate objectives and supporting policy commitments that shape everything that the council does. The Corporate Plan sets out a clear objective of the council to take action to bring forward adopted sustainable living and operating practices delivering a cleaner, more attractive and healthier Gravesham, working towards preparing for the borough to become carbon neutral.

In developing this Strategy, the council is formally and publicly setting out its plans to ensure it is taking pro-active action both as an employer, a housing provider and a community leader.



Financial Support for the Climate Change Agenda

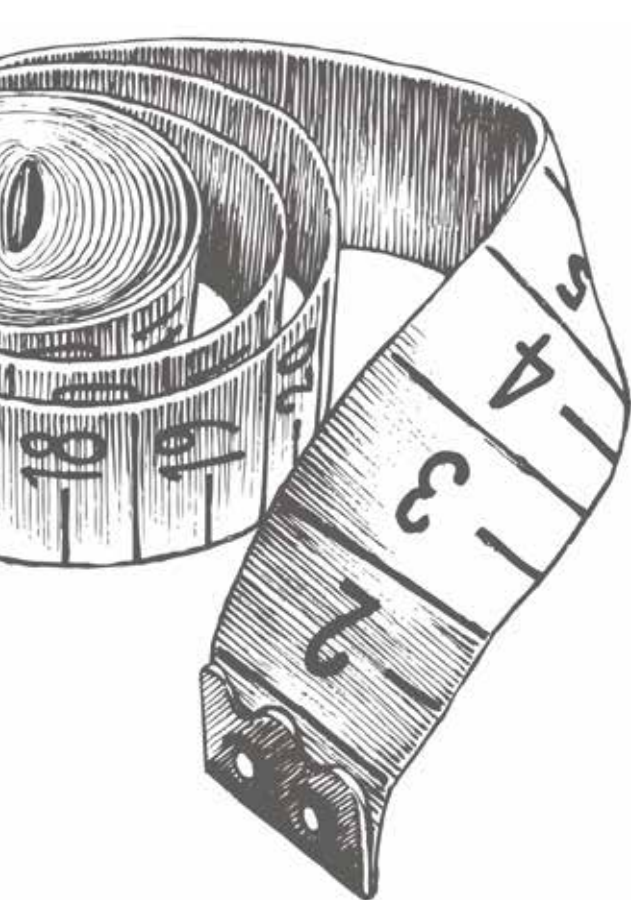
Government launched its Green Finance Strategy in July 2019, intended to support the UK's economic policy for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, the delivery of a modern Industrial Strategy and the domestic and international commitments on climate change, the environment and sustainable development. With local authority budgets already strained, Green Finance will be a key area of focus for both recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, and for renewal programmes to deliver climate emergency ambitions.

The term 'Green Finance' relates to any form of investment or lending for purposes that take into account the environmental and social impact or enhance environmental sustainability. Fundamental to green finance is the ability to demonstrate that the related project or initiative has produced environmental benefits. Examples of green finance could include taking on a loan to purchase an electric vehicle or taking a decision to invest in more energy efficient measures in council administrative buildings and council-owned dwellings.

In November 2020, the Prime Minister set out the approach Government will take to build back better, support green jobs, and accelerate the path to net zero through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Specifically in relation to Green Finance, this included a commitment to raising total Research & Development investment to 2.4% of GDP by 2027, as well as providing £1bn of government funding in net zero innovation with £1bn of matched funding and potentially £2.5bn of follow on funding from the private sector.

Funding for Local Government over recent years has become more heavily focused on targeted grants from Central Government intended to support and deliver specific policy outcomes. Securing funding from such sources will be fundamental to the council being able to deliver its Climate Change Agenda. Gravesham Borough Council has also established a specific Climate Change Reserve to provide seed funding for activities relating to the council's Climate Change agenda; further activity will also be supported by existing Revenue and Capital provisions.

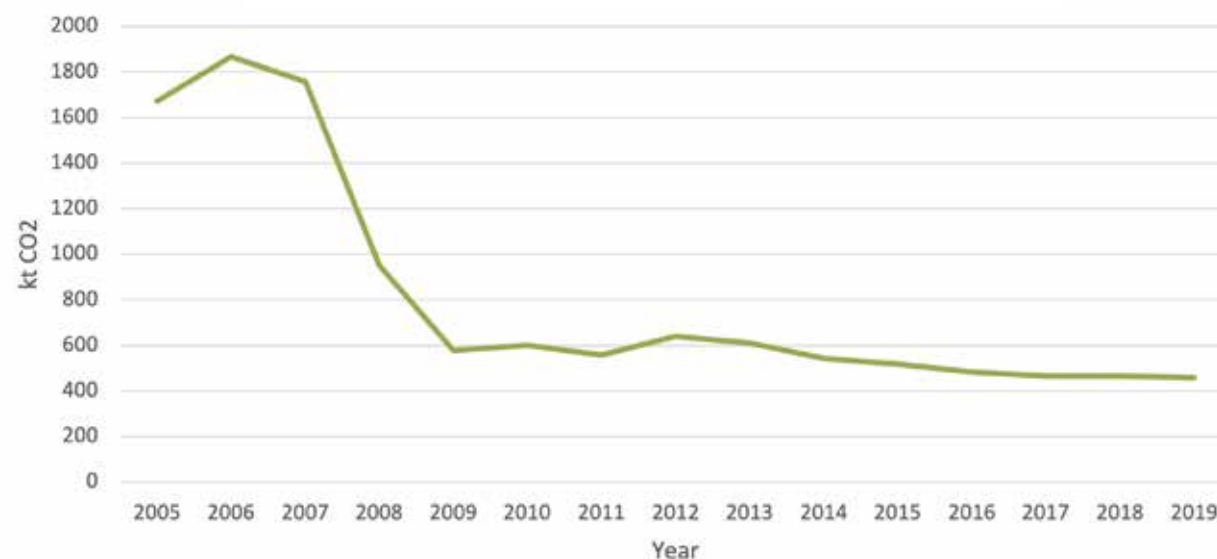
Alongside other partners and key bodies, the council will lobby government to shape national policy and influence funding decisions in support of taking action on Climate Change.



A BASELINE FOR GRAVESHAM

Gravesham Borough Emissions

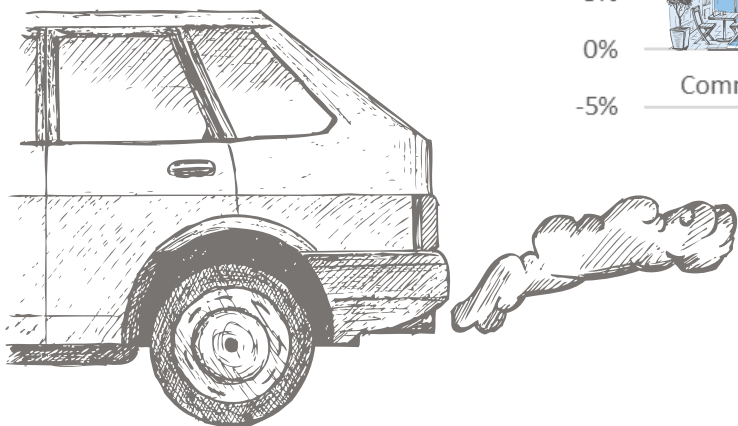
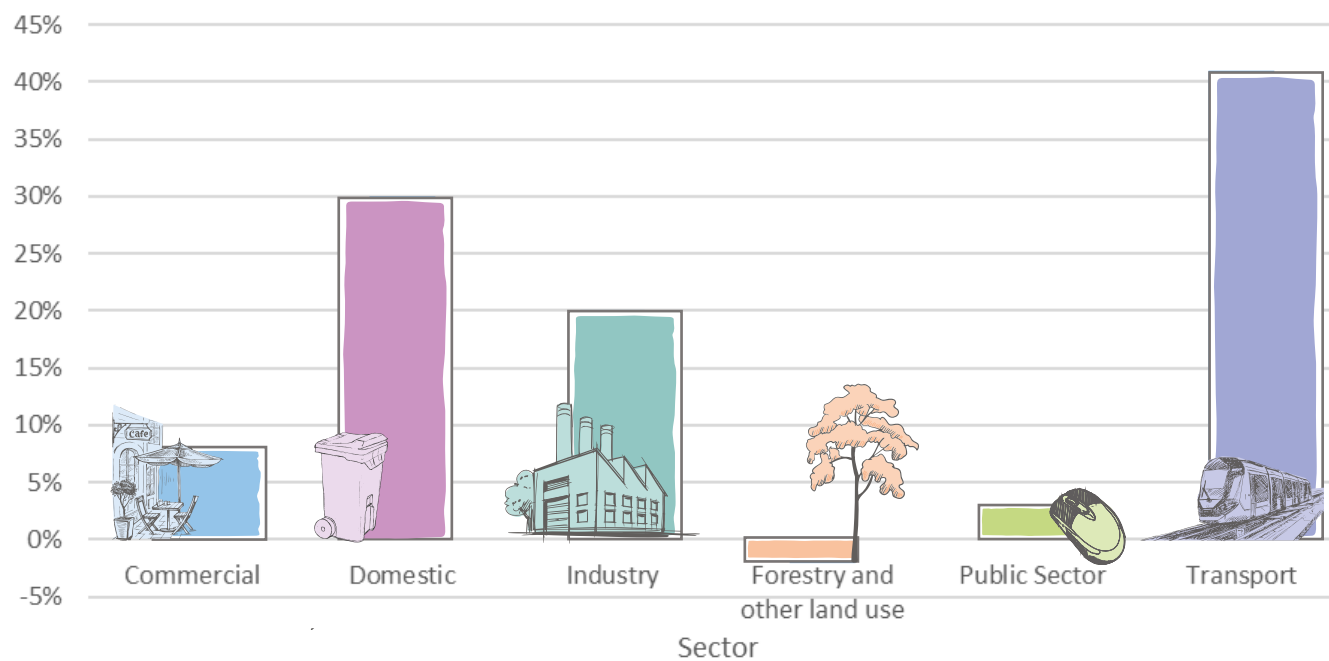
In order for the council to understand the total emissions for the borough of Gravesham the council has used data collated by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to provide an overview:



Since 2005, the borough has seen a reduction in the level of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from 1,672,372 ktCO₂ to 457,043 ktCO₂, a reduction of just under 73%. To put this into perspective, the emissions from the borough of Gravesham represents less than 1% of the total UK emissions in 2019.

The graph opposite shows the sectors that contribute the most to the level of emissions in the borough:

Contributors to Gravesham's Carbon Dioxide Emissions by Sector - 2019



Council Emissions (excluding housing stock)

Working with Local Partnerships, the council undertook a full audit of the data that had previously been reported in relation to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions generated from its own operations.

The graph opposite provides a view of the level of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from GBC operations since 2014-15:

GBC Greenhouse Gas Emissions (tCO₂e)



The Council's total gross greenhouse gas emissions continue to be recorded against the three specific 'scopes' for categorising the emissions:

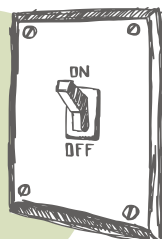
SCOPE 1

All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.



SCOPE 2

Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.






SCOPE 3

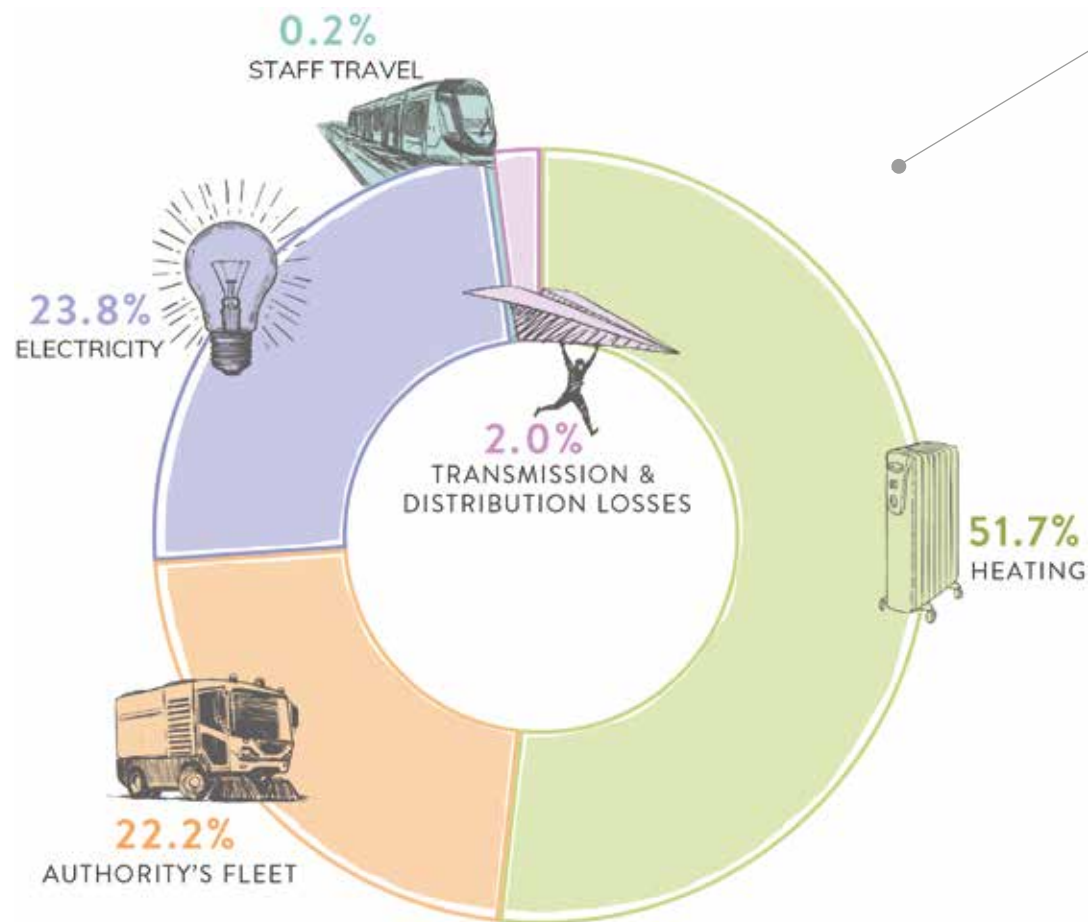
All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control.



The council's emissions for 2020-21 can be analysed as follows:

Scope	Emissions Type	Emissions (tCO2e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
SCOPE 1 	Heating	910.68	51.7%
	Fugitive Emissions	0	0.0%
	Authority's Fleet	391	22.2%
SCOPE 2 	Electricity	419.5	23.8%
SCOPE 3 	Staff Travel	3.04	0.2%
	Transmission & Distribution Losses	36.08	2.0%
	Water	0	
Total Emissions		1760.3	100%

GBC Breakdown of Total Emissions 2020-21



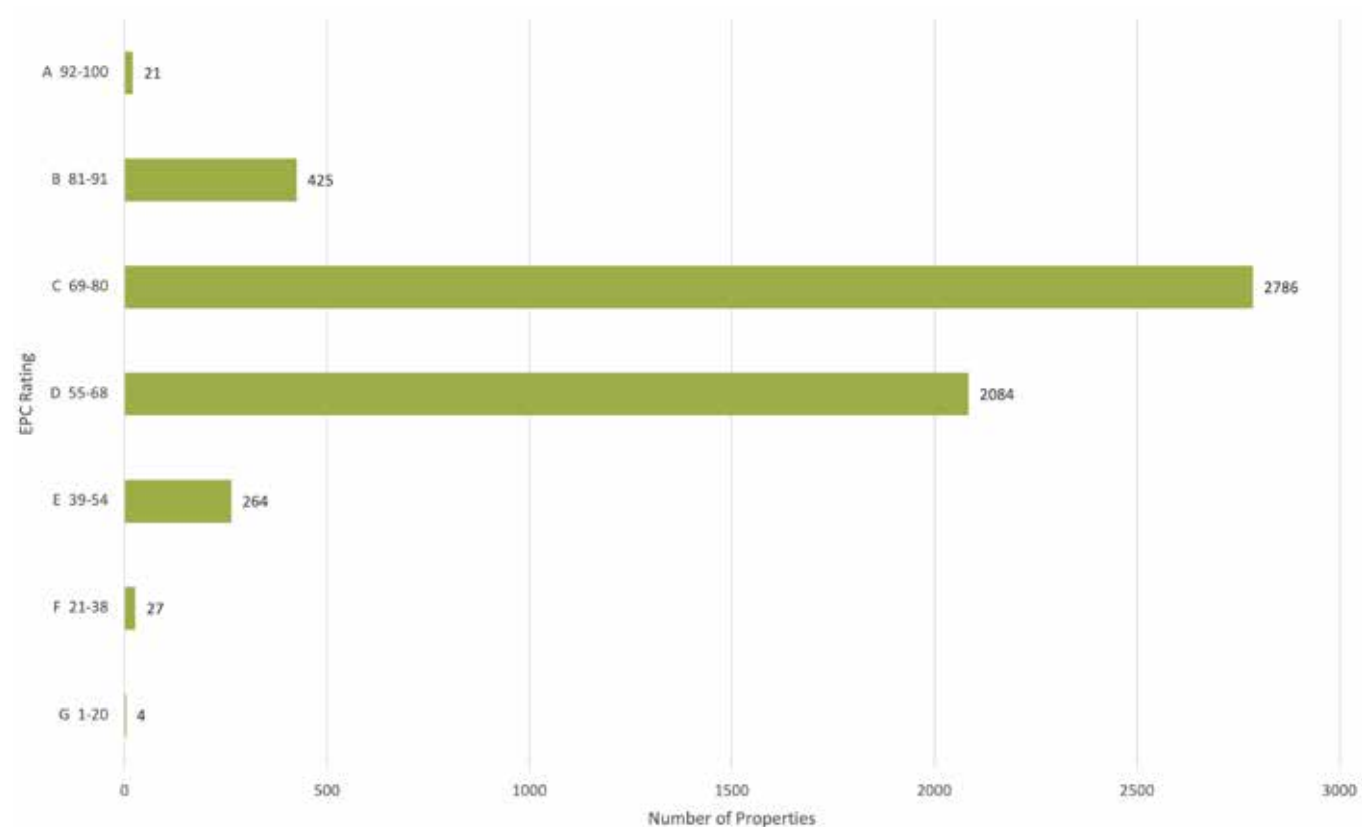
It is clear that the vast majority of council emissions fall into Scope 1 and are therefore emissions that the council has direct control over and can have an impact on by taking positive action in the future.

GBC Housing Stock

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are required in the UK to provide a prospective owner or tenant with information on the energy performance of a building and recommendations for improvement. EPCs for homes use an A-G rating scale based on the modelled energy bill costs of running the building. The Government's Energy White Paper requires all existing homes to meet EPC Band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective and affordable.

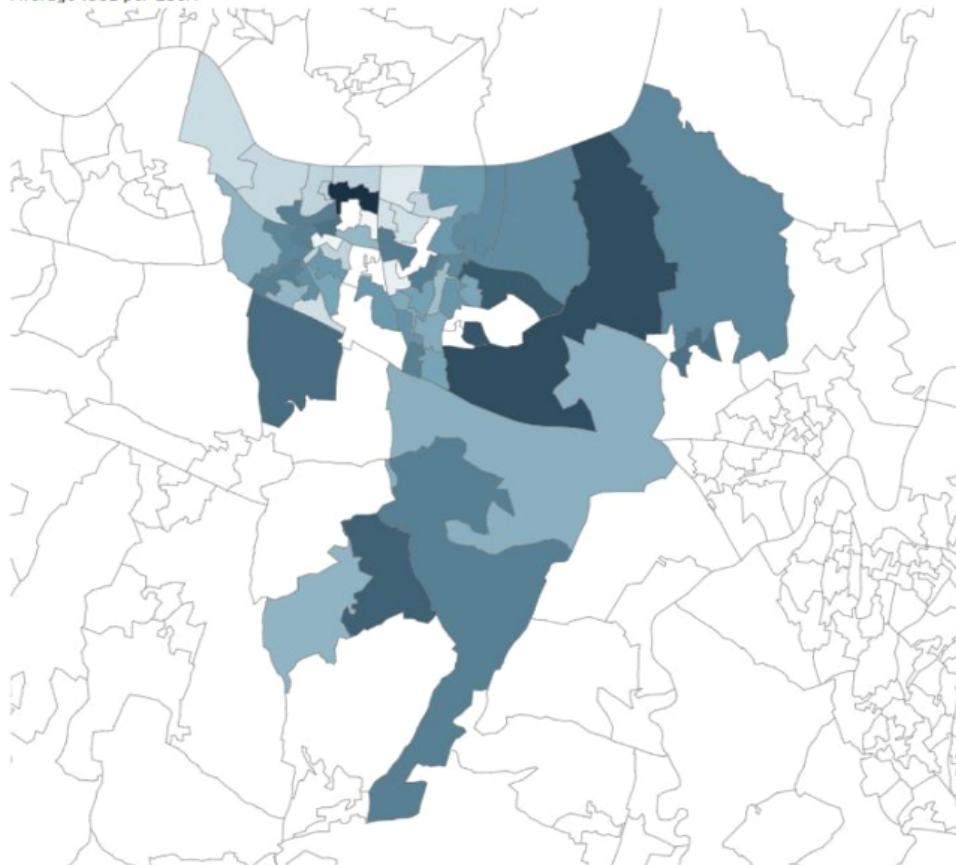
A total of 44% of GBC's housing stock has a logged EPC rated below C, which mirrors national statistics for social rented homes in England. The graph opposite shows the energy performance for all of Gravesham's social housing sourced from Parity Portfolio, a web-based assessment tool enabling GBC to profile its housing stock and identify energy efficiency measures and costs to improve SAP ratings, achieve fuel savings, and reduce CO₂ emissions.

GBC Housing - Energy Performance Ratings 2021



The graphic below provided by Parity Portfolio shows the density of carbon emissions for each lower layer super output areas (LSOA) by the council's social housing stock.

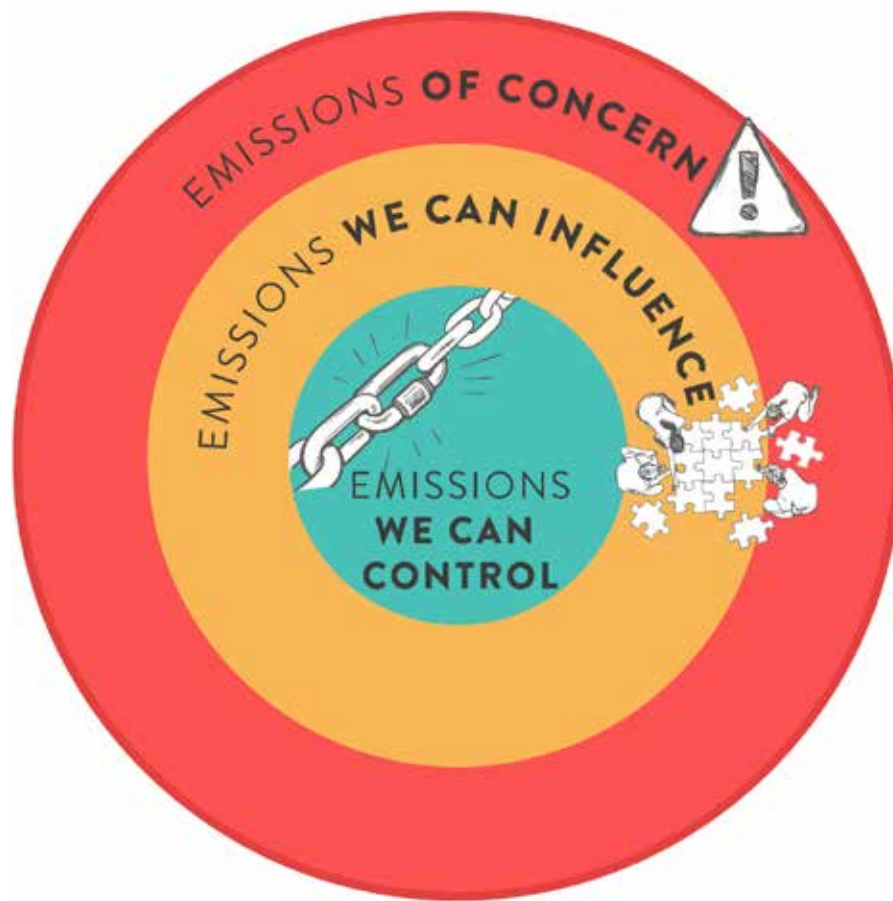
Average tCO2 per LSOA



LSOA	Average tCO2	Total tCO2 for the LSOA
E01032799	4.49	4
E01024300	4.05	24
E01024299	3.89	4
E01024312	3.66	239
E01024272	3.74	56
E01024269	3.56	11
E01024266	3.60	377
E01024282	3.49	7
E01024314	3.00	89
E01024260	3.40	3
E01024303	3.27	216
E01024302	3.06	111
E01024276	3.20	10
E01024283	3.05	16
E01024288	3.20	42
E01024281	3.13	183
E01024267	3.14	107
E01024311	3.12	483
E01024294	3.13	855
E01024261	3.06	12
Total	2.45	13,694

LSOA are a geographic hierarchy designed to show reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Gravesham wards may contain more than one LSOA. Gravesham Borough Council's social housing carbon emissions for 2021 are 13,694 tonnes averaging 2.45 tonnes per property.

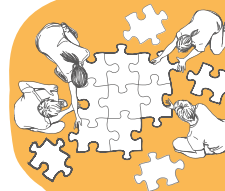
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITIES



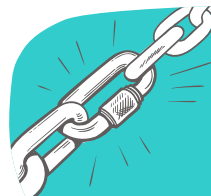
In identifying the key Climate Change action priorities for the council and the Borough as a whole, it is clear that there are some aspects for which the council has full control and others for which the council will need to work with others to instigate change to reduce emission levels.



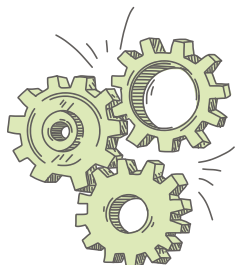
Emissions of concern – those emissions where the council has very limited influence but through communication and education can start to make a change.



Emissions we can influence – emission relating to both officers and member travel, goods and services bought, influence through planning policy and strategy decisions.



Emissions we can control – emissions relating to council buildings, operations and vehicle fleet.



1 Gravesham Borough Council – the organisation

The council is targeting its operations to be net-zero by 2030.

In working towards this target, the council will monitor and report on all sources of carbon emissions over which it has financial control. The council is assessed to have financial control over a service or asset if it has the ability to direct the financial and operating policies of the service or asset with a view to financially managing its activities.

In 2020-21, the council produced 1,760.3 tCO₂e of the total emissions in Gravesham, either through its direct operations or indirectly through its electricity usage (97.2% of all emissions). The council will lead by example and implement a number of actions which will enable the council to achieve its aim of achieving net zero emissions from its operations by 2030. The graph opposite sets out the trajectory for the council in the coming years:

GBC Carbon Pathway Scenarios to 2030



Specific action can be taken in order to reduce the level of emissions from council operations, starting with the education of both officers and Members in behavioural change to encourage better and sustainable decision making and use of resources. More fundamental changes will also be required to enable the council to reduce its emission to achieve net zero by 2030. These will include:

- **Replacement of the existing Civic Centre, The Woodville Theatre and two Leisure Centres with highly energy efficient new buildings.**
- **A programme of energy efficiency measures, electrification/decarbonisation measures and renewable energy generation at the Brookvale Depot and other corporate buildings within the estate.**
- **Fleet review and replacement of existing petrol/diesel vehicles with alternatively fuelled vehicles.**
- **Ensuring the council's remaining energy requirements are sourced from renewable sources.**

In order to achieve the reduction required, ideally the council will need to take actions as early as possible in order to increase the reduction of emissions as much as possible. Following the review by Local Partnerships, a carbon budget has been developed for the council. A Carbon Budget is intended to define the cumulative amount of carbon emissions that an entity has agreed is the largest it will produce over a period of time. In line with Governmental reporting cycles, the council has determined its first Carbon Budget cycle will run to 2027, as presented below.

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Cumulative
Budget	1,763	1,716	1,669	1,222	1,217	414	207	8,208
Annual Reduction	--	3%	3%	27%	0%	66%	50%	--

Monitoring and review of the Carbon Budget will be undertaken through the council's annual budget setting process and outturn reporting, as well as through annual reporting of its annual climate change activity.

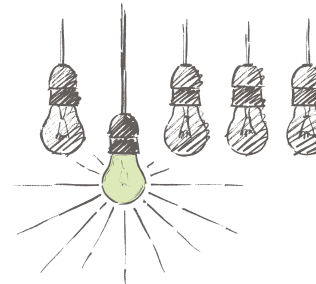
It will also be important for the council to not only use the Climate Change Reserve that has been established, but also secure funding from other sources, such as grants, Central government funding, to enable actions to be taken. There will also be a need to carry out a wholesale review of the way in which the council uses its fleet and administrative buildings, in order to achieve the reductions required.



2 Gravesham Borough Council – the housing provider

The council will do what is possible within resources available to work towards the UK Government's target for social housing providers, as set out in the Clean Growth Strategy, to attain the minimum rating of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C for rented properties by 2035. We will work with tenants to support them in the use of the tools and technology they have available to improve energy efficiency in council housing stock.

The council currently has 5,611 properties within its housing stock with 44% logged as having an EPC rated below C. There is a need to both improve the energy efficiency of council housing stock but also work with our residents to ensure they understand the impacts their own behaviours have on the level of emissions in the borough.

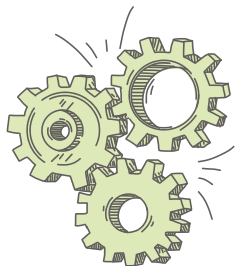


3 Gravesham Borough Council – the community leader

The council cannot tackle climate change alone. By working with partners, residents, community groups and other interested parties across the borough, we can continue to drive down the level of emissions across Gravesham, helping the borough to focus on those areas where emissions are highest.

Critical to reducing emissions in the borough is the need to take action around those in the areas of stationary energy (emissions from buildings such as domestic housing stock and industrial and commercial buildings) and transportation (emission from rail, freight and on-road emissions). Working together, and acting as a leader in the way in which the council manages its emissions, reductions can be achieved.

DELIVERY PLAN



PRIORITY: 1

GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL - THE ORGANISATION

AREAS FOR ACTION

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Educate all council Members and officers on Climate Change so that they are able to have an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis. Create opportunities and engagement activity to enable them to be actively involved in the council's activity around Climate Change and become advocates for Climate Change in all council, business and community operations. |
| 1.2 | Progress plans to replace the existing Civic Centre, The Woodville, Cascades Leisure Centre and Cygnet Leisure Centre (the largest energy-using operational assets of the council) by 2026 with new energy efficient buildings, targeting the achievement of net zero standards. Ensure that steps are taken to ensure that the embodied carbon of a new building is considered in design and construction. |
| 1.3 | Develop and implement a programme of targeted carbon reduction projects on the remaining operational assets held by the council, focusing on energy source, energy use reduction and 'fabric-first' measures. |
| 1.4 | Seek to secure an alternative energy supply through the procurement of renewable energy when the current supply contract ends in 2024. |
| 1.5 | Design and implement a fleet replacement programme intended to deliver decarbonisation of the fleet by 2030, focusing on small and medium size petrol and diesel vehicles from 2022. |
| 1.6 | Continue to identify and implement opportunities to improve the efficiency of journeys completed by fleet vehicles. |
| 1.7 | Develop a Sustainable Travel Policy to reduce the level and impact of business travel. Develop policies and initiatives to encourage active travel by Members and officers. |

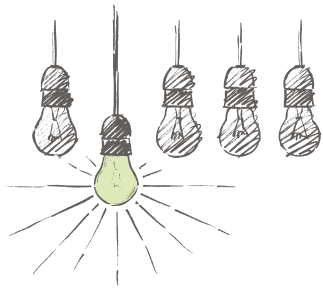


PRIORITY: 2

GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL -THE HOUSING PROVIDER

AREAS FOR ACTION

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | Implement a GBC resident engagement strategy around Climate Change. Work with partners to promote climate change key messages and activities to all council housing tenants as a means to support them in adjusting behaviours and deliver their own climate change action agendas. |
| 2.2 | Ensure all investment decisions regarding the council's housing stock are made with consideration to the impact of climate change. Develop and deliver a programme of investment to reduce carbon emissions and improve the energy rating of the housing stock. |
| 2.3 | Ensure that all projects to deliver new council-owned housing target the achievement of net zero standards and include provision for electric vehicle charging. |
| 2.4 | Seek to secure an alternative energy supply through the procurement of renewable energy when the current supply contract for communal and other council-managed housing assets in 2024. |
| 2.5 | Explore alternative energy solutions for communal areas and council housing tenants, looking to encourage use of green energy companies wherever possible. |
| 2.6 | Develop and deliver a programme of investment in EV charging points in existing housing estates. |
| 2.7 | Work with council tenants to promote a better understanding of the benefits of alternatively-powered vehicles and active travel options. |
| 2.8 | Reduce the amount of waste generated by the service and tenants that is sent to landfill with the intention to increase recycling rates. |
| 2.9 | Ensure the principles of green infrastructure are incorporated into new council housing developments and major works to the existing estate. |



PRIORITY: 3
GRAVESHAM BOROUGH
COUNCIL -THE
COMMUNITY LEADER

AREAS FOR ACTION

3.1	Implement an overarching Communications Strategy to clearly articulate how the council will seek to engage with residents, businesses, partners and communities to encourage and support climate change action across the borough. Linking in with national and local initiatives, develop a programme of activities targeted at increasing awareness of climate change activities within schools.
3.2	Work with partners to promote and deliver initiatives to enable local residents to improve the efficiency of their homes. Inform and support local residents to reduce their own energy usage and consider renewable energy sources.
3.3	Work with partners to enable and support local businesses to decarbonise their premises and processes.
3.4	Implement policy to ensure adequate consideration is given to the impacts on the environment of new development (residential and commercial). Ensure that such developments support sustainable living and transport infrastructure and solutions for cycling, walking and low/zero-emission vehicles.
3.5	Develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the borough, both for resident, business and general public use.
3.6	Encourage active travel through the use of public transport, cycle routes and walking facilities across the borough, promoting the health and climate change benefits for all.
3.7	Work with partners to reduce and manage the impact of climate change impacts through adaptation, mitigation, sustainable flood risk management and promotion of the benefits of green infrastructure.
3.8	Review council procurement policies and practice to help mitigate Climate Change. Actively assess major contractors' commitment to achieving net zero by 2050 in the UK and work with these suppliers to improve their performance.
3.9	Continue to develop innovative and sustainable waste management solutions and opportunities for waste recycling and disposal.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERS

The council recognises the critical role residents, communities, local businesses and stakeholders have in taking action to reduce the emissions they produce from their homes, businesses and lifestyle choices. Engagement must therefore be a key component of the delivery of the actions set out in this Strategy.

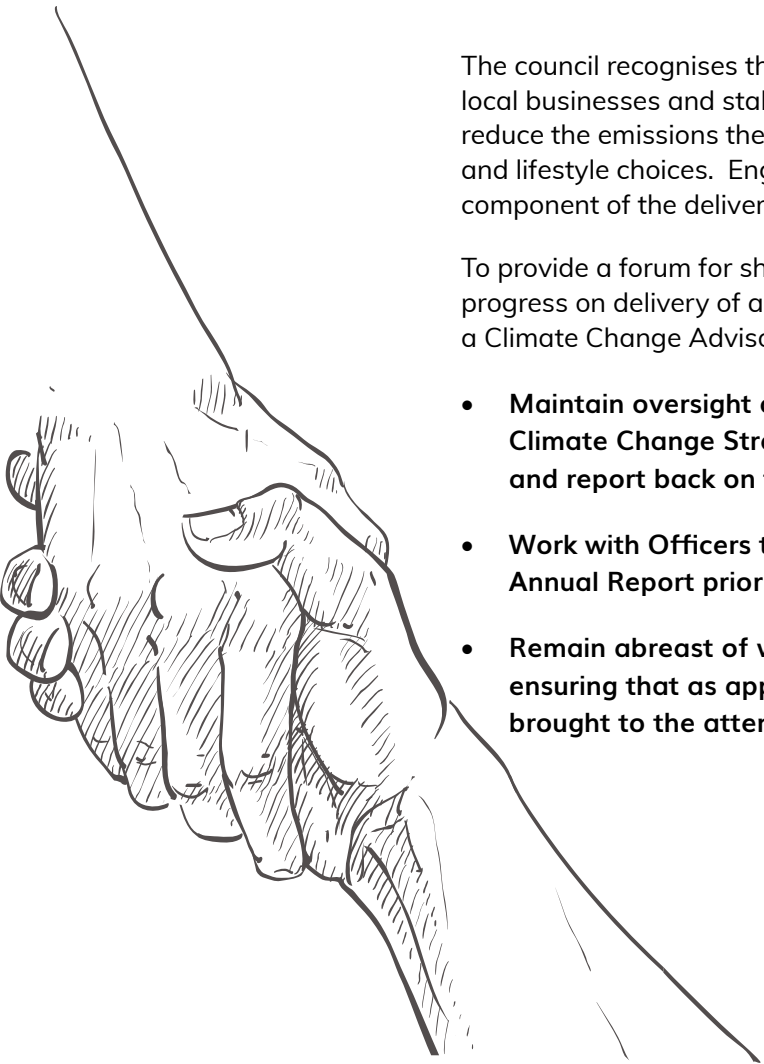
To provide a forum for sharing knowledge, information and progress on delivery of actions, the Cabinet have established a Climate Change Advisory Board. The Board will:

- **Maintain oversight of the delivery of the council's Climate Change Strategy and associated Action Plan and report back on this to Cabinet every six months;**
- **Work with Officers to formulate the Climate Change Annual Report prior to its presentation to Full Council;**
- **Remain abreast of wider climate change issues, ensuring that as appropriate information is brought to the attention of the Cabinet.**

The council has also established an area on its website dedicated to Climate Change activity. Climate Change Overview (gravesham.gov.uk)

Specifically, the council will:

- **Look to develop a Communications Strategy to clearly articulate how the council will seek to engage with residents, businesses, partners and communities to encourage and support climate change action across the borough.**
- **Linking in with national and local initiatives, develop a programme of activities targeted at increasing awareness of climate change activities within schools.**
- **Engage with local groups such as the Gravesham Youth Council to inform its activity.**
- **Through initiatives such as Adopt a Street – The Street Champions empower local communities to take responsibility for activity in their areas to improve the environment in which they live.**
- **Continue to promote initiatives intended to support residents in increasing the efficiency of their homes and securing savings in the supply of energy.**



WORKING ACROSS KENT AND MEDWAY

There is a need for the borough to adapt; ensuring it is prepared for the impacts of adverse weather conditions as a result of climate change. The council will be working with its key strategic partners in putting in place specific actions to respond to this requirement.

From a county wide perspective, the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy has been developed to provide a pathway to deliver specific actions with the aim of meeting the UK Government's target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 for the country.

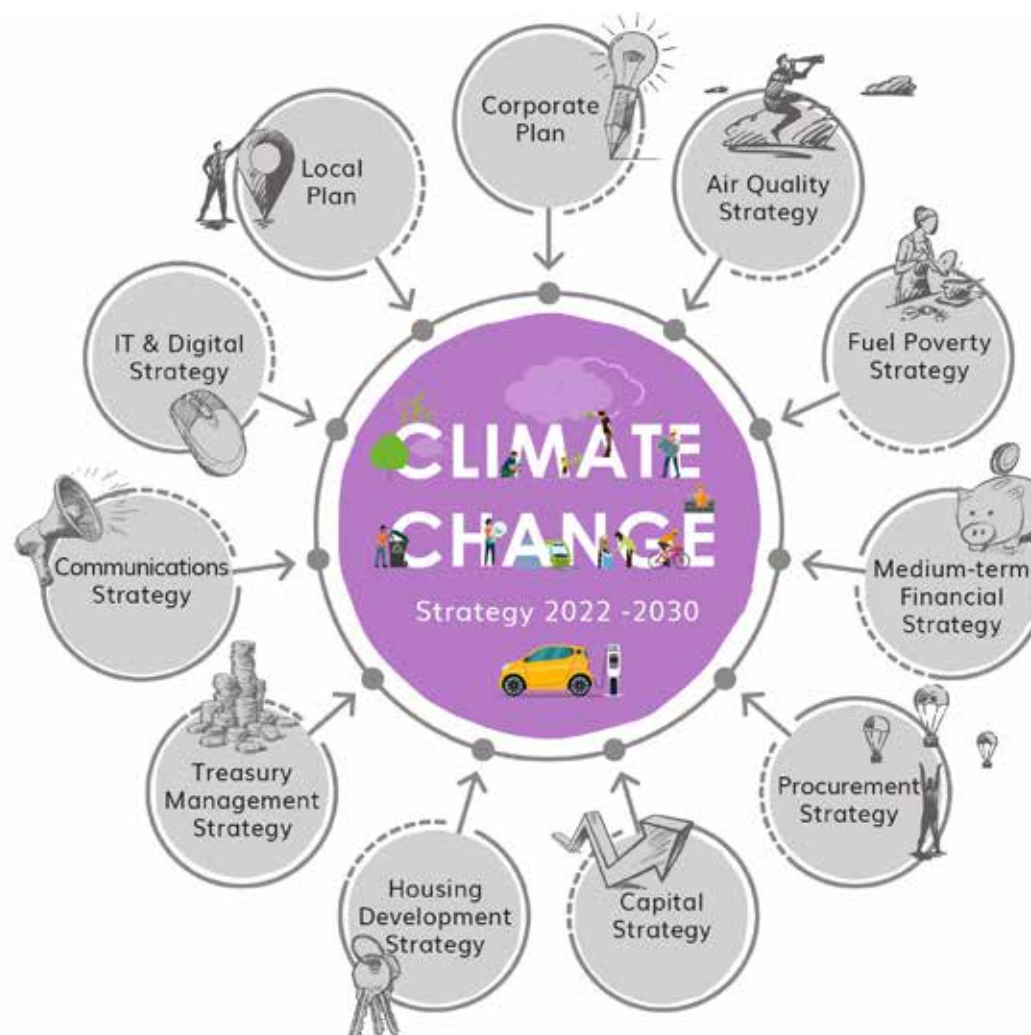
The strategy sets out a collaborative approach across the county to tackling the climate emergency; it was recently reviewed in May 2020 to take account of the impact of COVID-19. Ten priority actions have been identified, and are supported by a detailed implementation plan set out in the full Strategy document. The priorities are as follows:

PRIORITY 1	Emission reduction pathways to 2050	PRIORITY 2	Public sector decision making	PRIORITY 3	Planning and development	PRIORITY 4	Climate Emergency Investment Fund	PRIORITY 5	Building retrofit programme
Set area and organisational five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050, with significant reduction by 2030.		Develop a consistent approach across Kent and Medway, to assess, manage and mitigate environmental impacts (both positive and negative), resulting from public sector policies, strategies, service delivery, commissioning and procurement.		Ensure climate change, energy, air quality and environmental considerations are integrated into Local Plans, policies and developments, by developing a clean growth strategic planning policy and guidance framework for Kent and Medway, to drive down emissions and mainstream climate resilience.		Establish a trusted Kent and Medway 'Climate Emergency' carbon sequestration, offset and renewable energy investment scheme and fund.		Set up a Kent and Medway net-zero buildings retrofit plan and programme for public sector, domestic and businesses.	

<p>PRIORITY 6</p> <p>Transport, travel and digital connectivity</p>	<p>PRIORITY 7</p> <p>Renewable energy generation</p>	<p>PRIORITY 8</p> <p>Green infrastructure</p>	<p>PRIORITY 9</p> <p>Supporting low carbon business</p>	<p>PRIORITY 10</p> <p>Communications</p>
<p>Set up a smart connectivity and mobility modal shift programme – linking sustainable transport, transport innovations, active travel, virtual working, broadband, digital services, artificial intelligence and behaviour change.</p>	<p>Set up an opportunities and investment programme for renewable electricity and heat energy generation.</p>	<p>Develop a multi-functional, natural capital opportunity and investment programme – focusing on environmental projects that store carbon, increase climate change resilience, improve air quality and increase biodiversity.</p>	<p>Develop a support programme for Kent and Medway's Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services sector.</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive communications, engagement and behaviour change programme targeted at residents, employees, businesses and visitors.</p>

LINKS TO OTHER GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIES

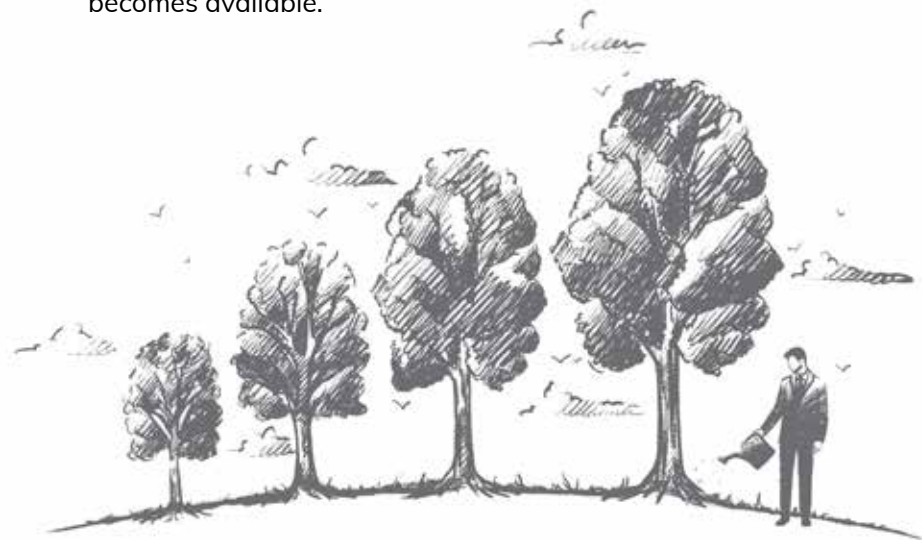
The council's Climate Change commitment, is intrinsically linked to several council policies and strategies, putting Climate Change at the heart of all of our activities:



MONITORING AND REPORTING

The council will provide an Annual Report in December each year to report back to the community on progress that has taken place in the previous year on its Climate Change commitments; this will be published on the Council's website. Throughout the year the delivery plan and its associated actions will be progressed by an internal working groups of officers, with reports to the Climate Change Advisory Panel.

Specific data relating to the level of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, both across the borough and specifically for the council and its own emissions, will also be provided on the council's website as the data becomes available.



CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about the council's Climate Change commitment and its actions to tackle climate change, please contact the Assistant Director (IT and Transformation) at darren.everden@gravesham.gov.uk