Folkestone & Hythe District

Carbon Action Plan

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1. Introduction

1.1 Folkestone and Hythe District Council has committed to reducing its own carbon footprint to a net zero target by 2030.

1.2 The Council also will take the opportunity to be an influencer of change within the district and plans to support local communities, organisations and businesses in the implementation of measures designed to reduce the CO2e footprint to net zero by 2030 of the district as a whole.In February, the council agreed a budget that included a £5m climate change reserve.

1.3 This Carbon Action Plan sits within the framework provided by the council's draft Corporate Plan 2021-30, 'Creating Tomorrow Together'. The Corporate Plan is due to be adopted in February, it sets out guiding principles and service ambitions that have helped influence the Carbon Action Plan which has been developed alongside it. While the draft Corporate Plan is being prepared during the Covid-19 pandemic, it also looks beyond to recovery and how that recovery can be made sustainable.

1.4 The plan will also have regard to Kent County Council's document the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy. The purpose of which is to identify an evidence-based pathway to deliver cleaner growth, and specifically, strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway.

1.5 Measures to reduce the operating carbon footprint of the Council's own estate and operations across the wider district and to adapt service delivery to address the impacts of extreme weather events will have the potential to significantly reduce financial risk and generate very real savings to the public finances in the future as well as delivering on corporate responsibilities to the environment and to communities.

1.6 It will also be critical to play an active role in influencing behaviours through engagement with the local community (individuals, residential, commercial, and institutional partners, etc.) to raise awareness of the need to respond to the Climate Emergency and to encourage commitment and ownership of the challenge.

1.7 Implementing carbon reduction actions and specific targeted measures may have a significant cost as well as many benefits (social, economic, environmental). Sourcing of funding to deliver the Carbon Action Plan objectives for the Council's own estate and to support / encourage the transition across the district will require careful and deliberate targeting of funds. These will be from a combination of Council budgets, from energy savings and from external grants. Individual homeowners, landlords and businesses will also have a major part to play, as will the district's residents in the choices they make in travelling, using energy, recycling waste and many other decisions.

1.8 This plan has been produced during the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on the way that the Council and its staff work will be long term, if not permanent. This will mean that some of the proposed actions will be reviewed as the plan is refreshed and updated.

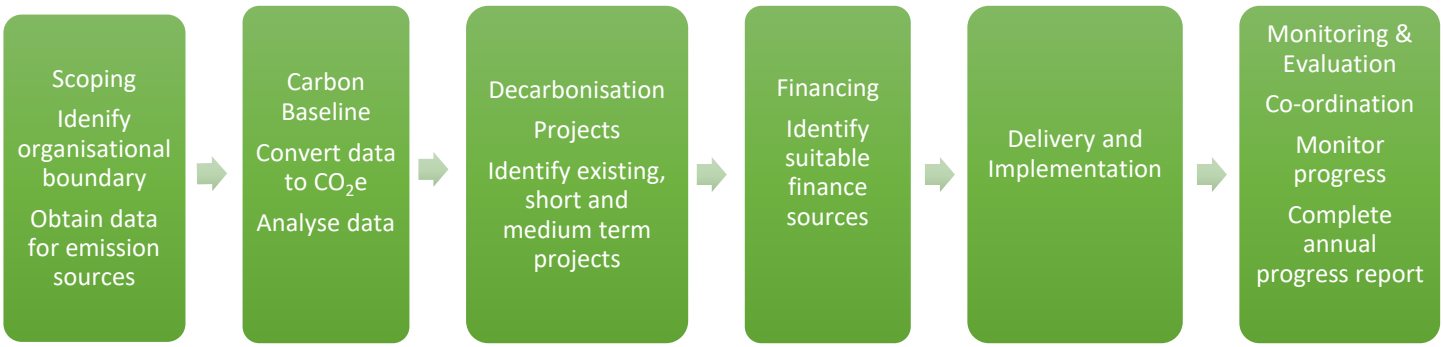
A Carbon Action Plan for the Council

1.9 This Carbon Action Plan has been produced to reduce the Council's own operating carbon footprint to net zero by 2030 with costs measures and actions, energy saving and carbon reduction outcomes based on currently available data and assessments. It takes as its baseline a study by Laser outlined later in this document that uses data from 2018/19 as an initial starting point.

Achievements so far

- Established a cross party working group to explore proposals to address the climate and ecological emergency declared by Council on 24th July 2019.
- Working with Kent County Council to roll out a programme of charging points for electrical vehicles across the district,
- We currently plant around 100 semi-mature trees a year with a focus on broad canopy trees for carbon uptake.
- Working with staff to review the Civic Centre's recycling (this includes tenants in the Civic Centre building as well as the Council) and staff transport – e.g. there is a cycling to work scheme. Staff have also taken part in Kent County Council's activmob survey which encourages non-car travel to work.
- Securing improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure in Folkestone and Hythe through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- Planting wildflower meadows and managing land to promote biodiversity e.g. churchyards.
- Reducing strimmer and pesticide application around trees and obstacles where suitable.
- Following Full Council's resolution to move to being pesticide-free, officers have met with members prior to trialling alternatives to pesticides.
- Rural grass verges on the Marsh are now actively managed for wildlife, only being cut on one occasion per year.
- Battery-operated grounds maintenance equipment is being purchased where suitable to replace petrol-powered equipment.

How this Plan is structured



2. Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency

2.1 Folkestone & Hythe District Council declared a climate emergency along with many other councils in 2019 and a budget has been set aside for initiatives which will help the council hit its operational net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

From 24th July 2019 the Council resolved:

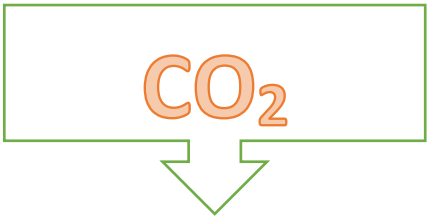
That Full council:

1. Recognises that we are in a climate emergency, and that the issue be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committee to get the best way forward, and price it.
2. Commit to reduce Folkestone and Hythe District Council's estate and operations to zero net carbon by 2030.
3. Ensure that all strategic decisions, policy, budgets, investments, contracts, approaches to planning decisions and the council's own developments are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
4. Ensure that all future council reports, where appropriate, include a climate impact statement.
5. To develop a strategy for Folkestone and Hythe District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District.
6. To achieve this, create a Carbon Action Plan based on practical frameworks and advice such as provided by the Carbon Trust.
7. Establish a cross-party working group of full council to draw up, steer and monitor progress of the Carbon Action Plan, reporting back to full council in 6 months, then annually.
8. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.
9. Request that Cabinet shows leadership and adopts the matters raised in 1 – as above.

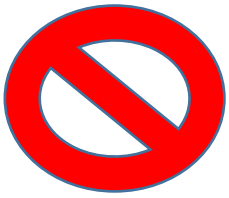
What do 'Carbon Neutral' and 'Net Zero' mean?

'Carbon neutral' or 'net zero' typically mean the same thing: some carbon or greenhouse gas emissions remain but are then 'netted off' or off-set through carbon dioxide removal. Such removal may occur due to Negative Emissions Technologies (NETs) such as biomass energy with carbon capture and storage, or, natural sequestration via means such as afforestation. The UK's Net Zero target includes all GHGs (not just those from within the energy system).

UN Environment Programme



Reducing carbon emissions can include actions such as energy efficiency measures that reduce the demand for heating.



Eliminating carbon emissions can be achieved through the use of renewable energy that does not produce any carbon emissions and making changes to industrial and agricultural processes to eliminate carbon production.

Carbon offsetting is a climate action that enables individuals and organisations to compensate for the emissions they cannot avoid, by supporting projects that reduce emissions somewhere else.

3. Creating Tomorrow Together

3.1 The Council will adopt a new Corporate Plan for the period 2021 – 2030 in February 2021. The plan 'Creating Tomorrow Together' provides a strategic direction for the coming nine years and a focus on sustainable recovery for the initial three year period.

3.2 The plan is built on four service ambitions A Thriving Environment, Positive Community Leadership, A Vibrant Economy & Quality Homes and Infrastructure. All of these service ambitions have relevance to the carbon action plan. Additionally the plan proposes 6 guiding principles which will be relevant in all we do as an authority and how we approach the delivery of our service ambitions. One of the guiding principles is a Greener Folkestone & Hythe which has particular relevance to this Action Plan.

3.3 The 'Thriving Environment' 2030 service ambition is:

"By 2030, we will be recognised as an outstanding place and known as a Green Exemplar Council. Across the district, we will ensure excellent accessible open spaces for all. We will have invested in green infrastructure to enhance our superb natural environment and the council itself will generate net zero carbon emissions."

3.4 Within this ambition we pledge to grow the circular economy of the district and seek to reduce waste as well as increase our resilience to climate change through improved energy & resource efficiency, supporting higher sustainability standards in new developments and taking advantage where possible of initiatives to retrofit energy efficiency measures in existing homes and commercial properties.

3.5 Furthermore the cross cutting guiding principle for a 'Greener Folkestone & Hythe' seeks to ensure we address our climate emergency declaration in all we do. It recognises that our long-term resilience will depend on our ability to encourage and create a more sustainable district, consuming fewer natural resources. It proposes that we embed measures to reduce our carbon footprint, enabling active travel and enhancing the natural environment. It commits us to look to identify more sustainable options as we make new policy and service choices recognising that the actions we take in the next three years will have a long-term impact.

4. Calculating Our Carbon Footprint

4.1 In 2020 the District Council contracted Laser to prepare a baseline carbon footprint analysis of the Council's own estate and operations. The methodology based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol is set out below.

Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard

4.2 The Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard is one of the best recognised international standards for assessing what sources of carbon emissions should be included in an assessment and how these should be reported.

4.3 A key purpose of the standard is to provide public sector organisations and businesses with guidance on how to develop inventories that provide an accurate and complete picture of greenhouse gas emissions both from their direct operations and those along the value chain.

4.4 Launched in 1998, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol is a partnership of businesses, non-governmental organisations and governments, led by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). It serves as an important source of knowledge and best practice on emissions accounting and reporting, and draws on the expertise from around the world.

4.5 The protocol is intended to be used by businesses, non-governmental organisations, universities and other bodies with operations that give rise to greenhouse gas emissions. It covers the accounting and reporting of the six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol: carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6).

4.6 The protocol is designed to help organisations calculate a true and fair account of their emissions. It is governed by five principles:

- Relevance – that the inventory helps the decision-maker to take action;
- Completeness – that all greenhouse gases are accounted for and any exclusions are made clear and are justified;
- Consistency – that results allow for meaningful comparisons over time with any changes to the data transparently documented;
- Transparency – that issues are addressed in a factual and coherent manner, with assumptions, methodologies and data sources clearly documented; and
- Accuracy – that emissions are neither under- nor over-estimated, as far as can be judged, so that decision-makers have confidence in the integrity of the data.

Organisational boundaries

4.7 The first step in calculating the district council's operational carbon footprint is to decide what is within the scope of the organisation.

4.8 The framework is designed to establish a common position for separate but closely linked organisations, to avoid a situation where they double-count the same emissions or alternatively where they rule certain emissions out of scope, meaning that they remain unaccounted for in any inventory.

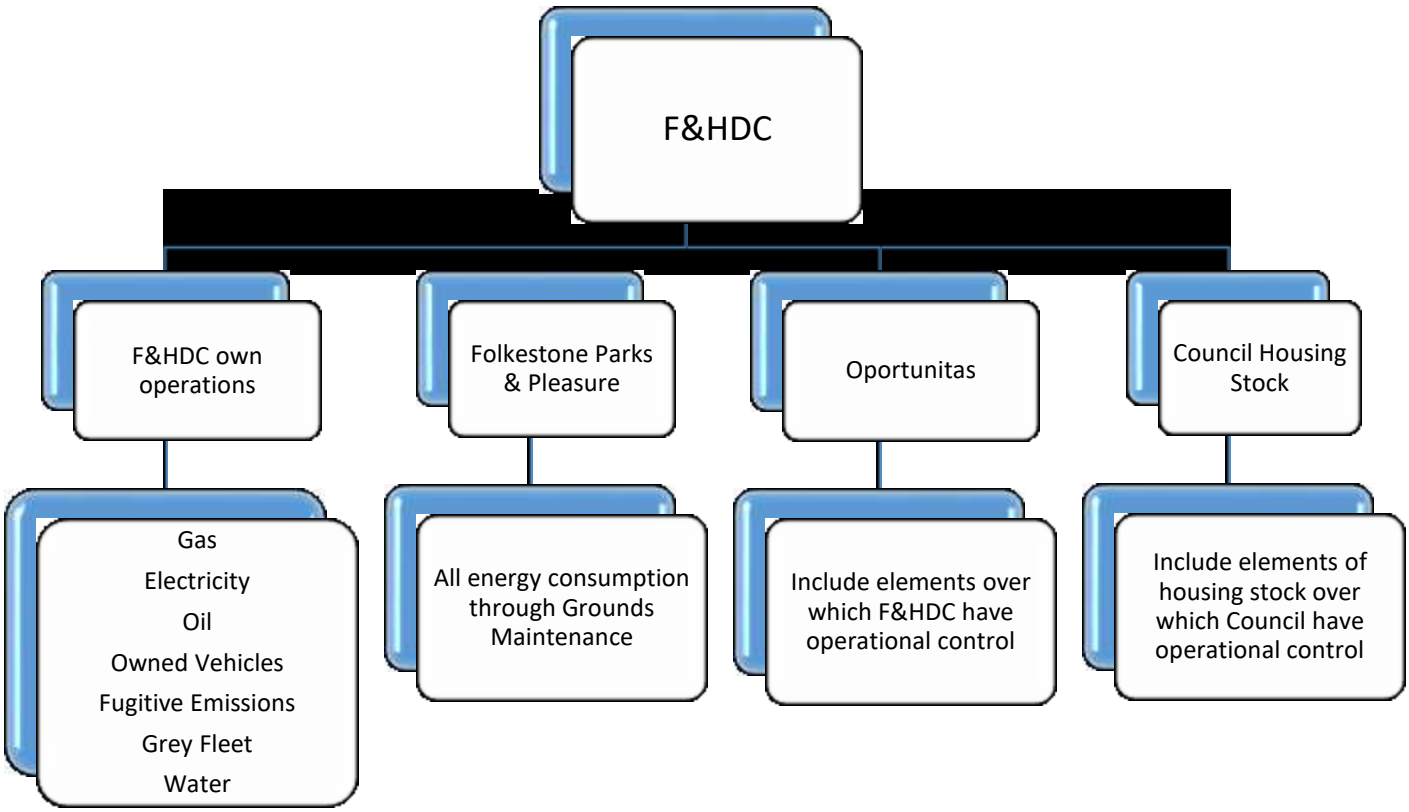
4.9 In deciding what parts of the organisation to include, the council considered a number of factors such as the influence it has over the different parts of the organisation and how this aligns with financial accounting, management information and performance reporting.

4.10 In cases where an organisation's structure is straightforward, reporting would include the impacts from everything that is owned and operated by the organisation. However, as a local authority with links to third parties, the Council has a more complex organisational structure whereby some entities are only part-owned or part operated. And with limited resources, a focus needs to be bought that targets action in a managed way accepting that resources will not allow all actions to be taken all at the same time.

Operational boundaries

4.11 After the organisational boundaries had been determined, the operational boundaries were defined, distinguishing between the Council's own emissions and those that are the responsibility of other organisations in the supporting supply chains that it may be closely linked to.

4.12 The diagram below sets out how this process was applied to the Council's operations. As the baseline for this study was 2018/19 the Otterpool Development Company was not included as it was formed in June 2020 and, due to its scale and complexity, this will be subject to separate consideration.



Furthermore, the following areas were not included within the scope at this time primarily as they are outsourced services at the time of evaluation:

• Coastal infrastructure

• Crematorium

• Waste collection and street cleaning

• Waste disposal from own operations

4.13 The Council's carbon footprint will continue to be measured and if relevant these service areas may be included in future measurements however a clear audit trail will be provided if so.

Scopes for emissions

4.14 Once the organisational and operational scope had been decided, it was necessary to decide what emissions should be included in the assessment and what emissions should be excluded.

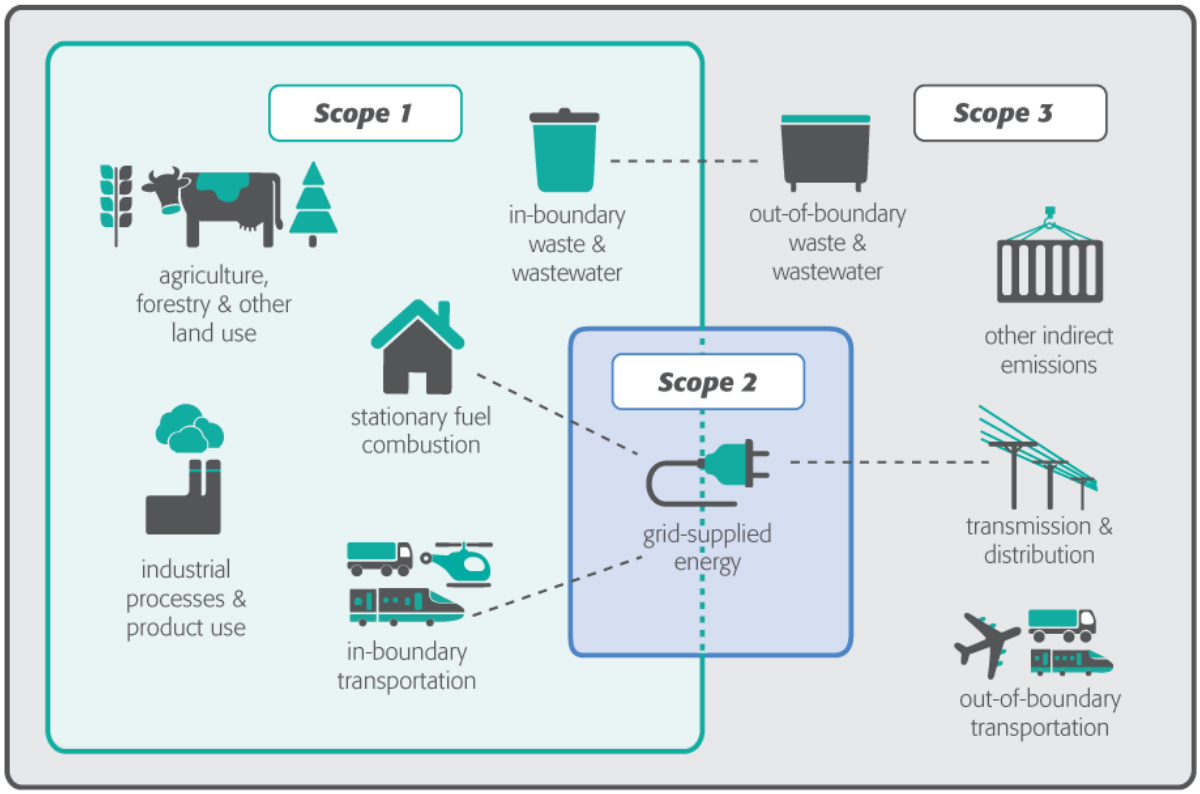
4.15 The Greenhouse Gas Protocol defines emissions as:

- Direct emissions - emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the organisation; or
- Indirect emissions - emissions that result from the activities of the organisation but occur at sources owned or controlled by another organisation.

4.16 To help with this process the protocol sets out three 'scopes'. These are:

- Scope 1: Direct Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Scope 2: Electricity Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions; and
- Scope 3: Other Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

4.17 The diagram below sets out these three scopes. The protocol says that organisations should account for and report on scope 1 and 2; scope 3 is an optional reporting category. For the purpose of this action plan, the recommendation in the protocol is being followed. The initial focus of this first plan will be on direct emissions - as the plan develops it can look to influence indirect emissions.



4.18 Based on the 2018/19 base year and the guidance in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, the assessment for Folkestone & Hythe District Council included Scope 1 and 2 emissions and some within Scope 3 is set out below.

Scope 1

4.19 Scope 1 sources of emissions include Council-owned or controlled mobile combustion sources (e.g., petrol and diesel fuel consumed in buses and cars).

4.20 Combustion of fuels in stationary sources (e.g., natural gas, burning oil, gas oil and LPG consumed within Council buildings) is also included.

Scope 2

4.21 Scope 2 includes emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat or steam that is consumed in the Council's own or controlled equipment or operations (e.g., buildings and street lighting).

Scope 3

4.22 Included within scope 3 are emissions generated by business travel and water. No other Scope 3 emissions have been included in this plan

4.23 Excluded from the study were emissions from the Council's individual housing stock and waste service. Emissions from individual council homes have been excluded from the study as the council does not have direct control over how residents source their energy or how much they use. However emissions from our sheltered housing blocks have been included as they are communally heated. The council does not own its own refuse trucks, so we cannot count this within our own estate footprint. However, we can influence a reduction in the district footprint through our procurement specifications and through awareness raising campaigns.

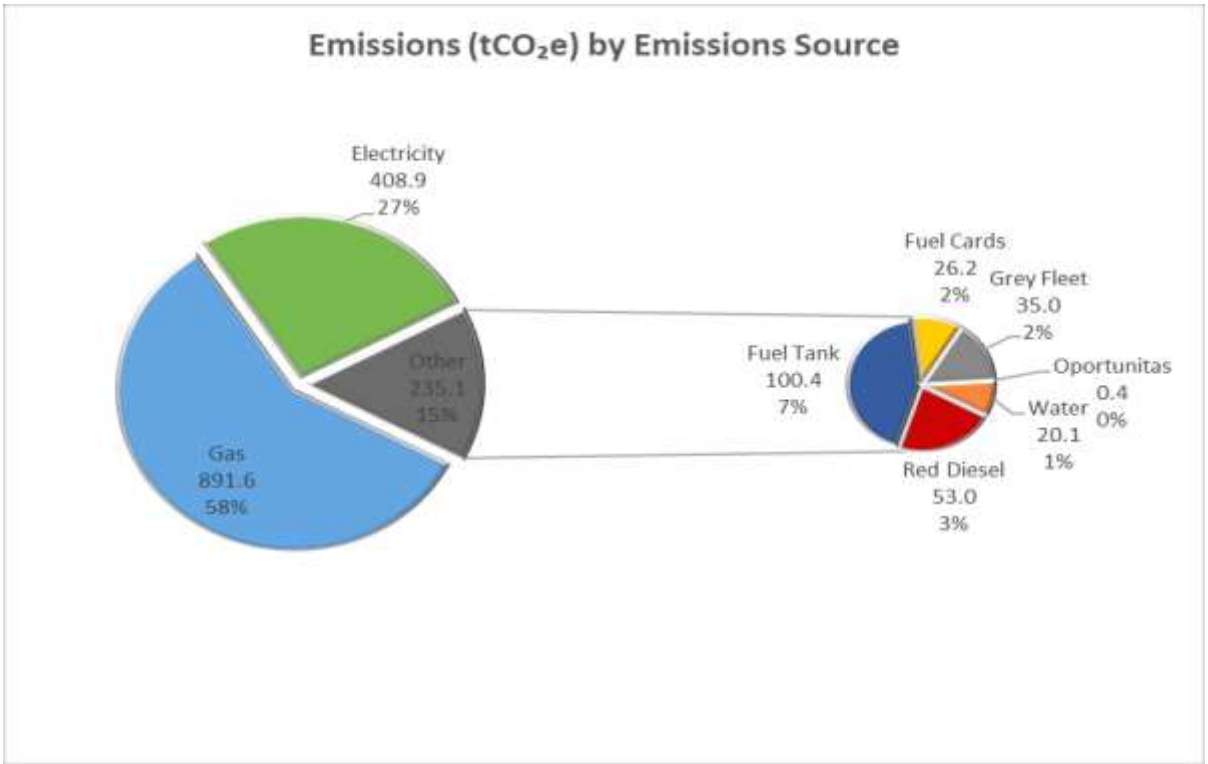
Calculating the Footprint

4.24 The activity data is collected, e.g. the amount of electricity used or distance travelled and then multiplied by an emission (conversion) factor which gives an estimate of the GHG emissions. Wherever possible Laser used the Treasury Green Book Factors as these are more representative of the current period and also provide the most realistic and up to date figures for calculating emissions. They also provide the most reputable source for forecasting emissions factors in the UK. However there are some fuel types and emissions sources that are not covered by the HMT Green Book factors; in these instances the BEIS/Defra factors were used.

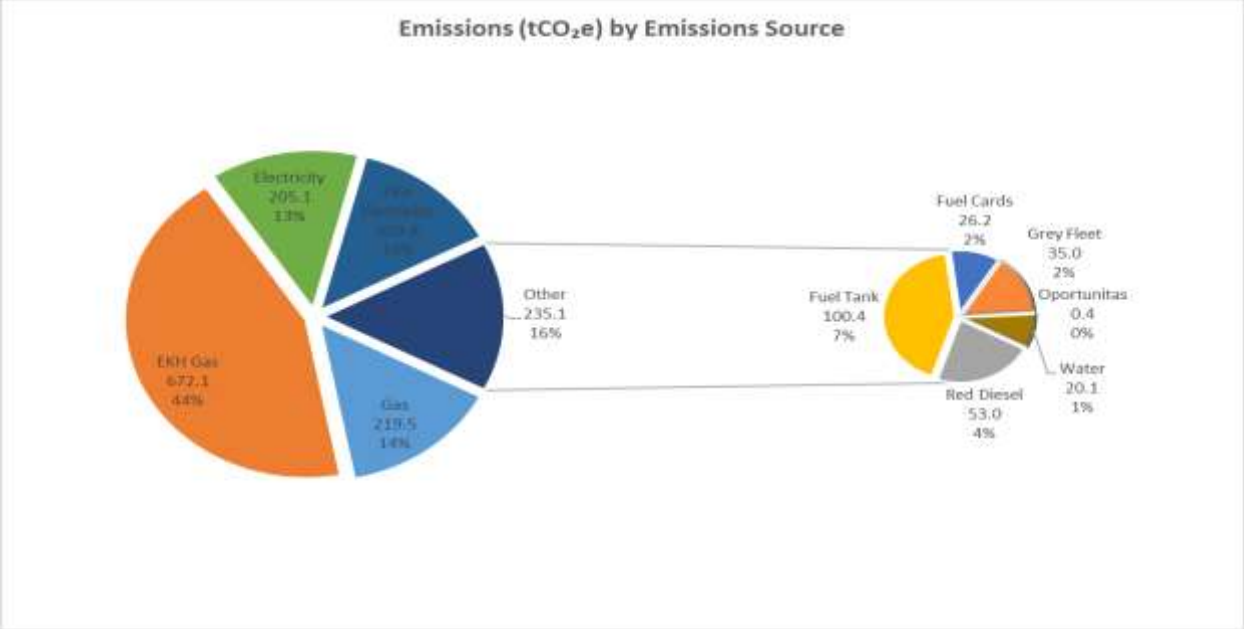
Activity Data x Emission Factor = GHG emissions

5. Our Carbon Baseline

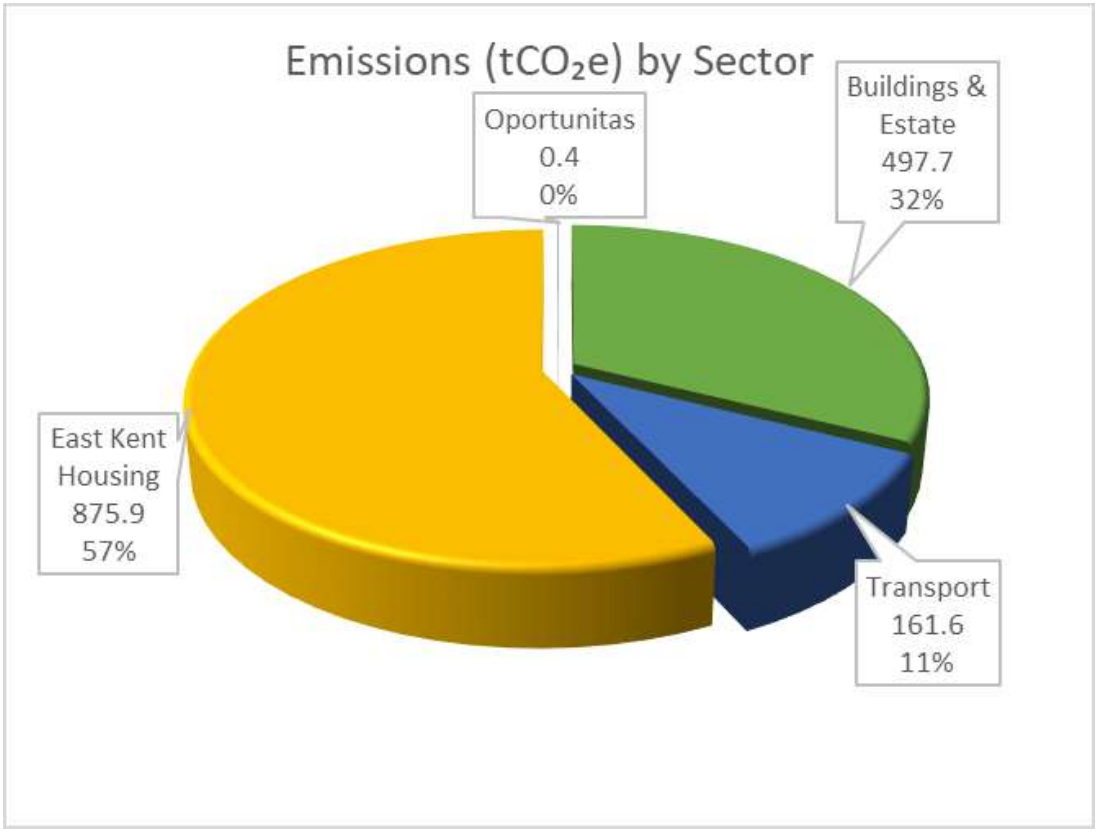
5.1 Carbon footprint assessment (2018/19) supplied by Laser



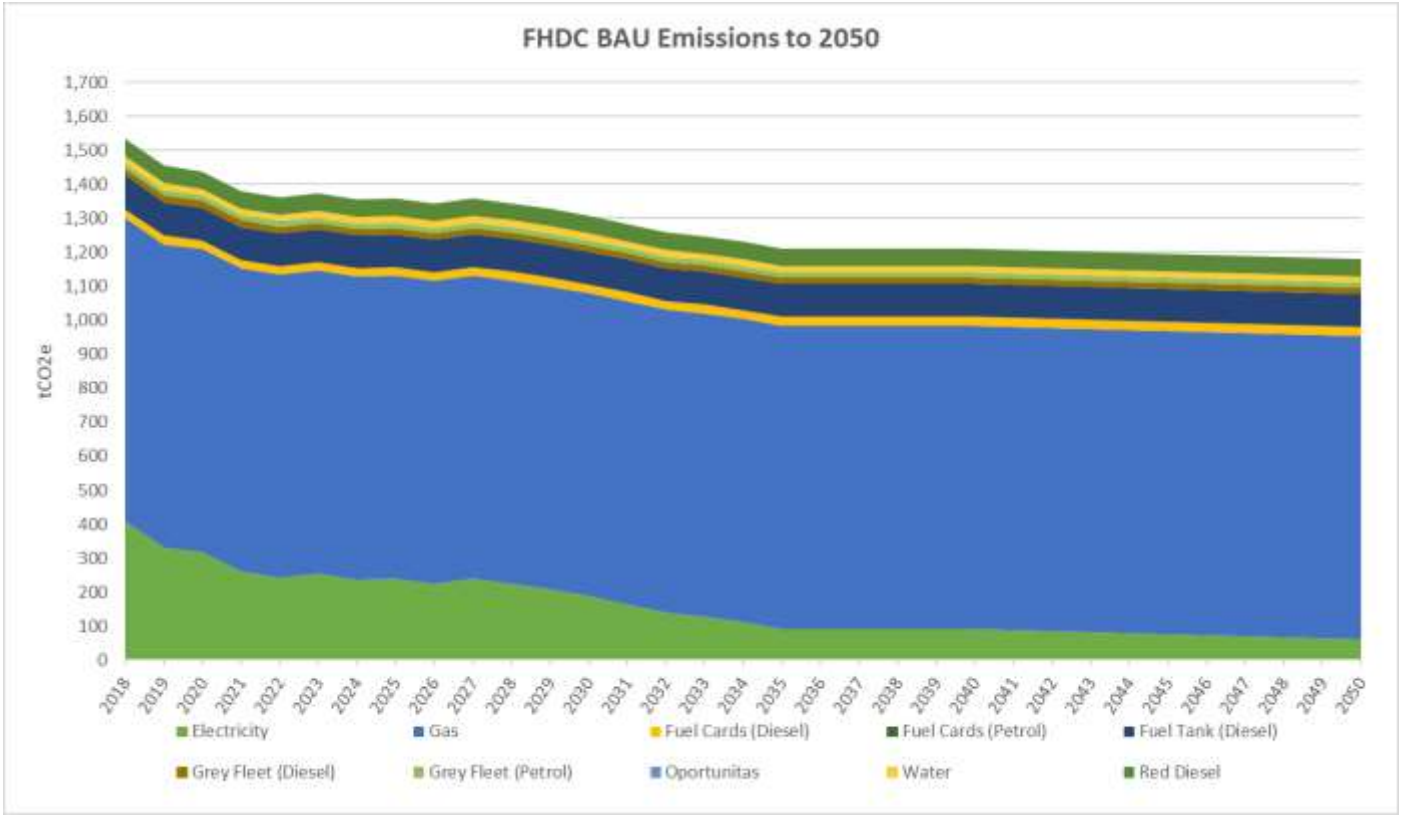
The total emissions are 1,536 tCO_2e per year. The chart above shows the breakdown by emissions source and the chart below splits out the former East Kent Housing's[1] electricity and gas consumption. The chart below demonstrates that the EKH energy consumption comprises of 57% of the total footprint.



[1] On 1 October 2020 the services provided by East Kent Housing within Folkestone & Hythe District were taken over by the district council (alongside Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council for their respective areas). However as the base year for this Carbon Action Plan is 2018/19, reference is still made to East Kent Housing (EKH).



5.2 Laser have also modelled over the term to 2050 what our business as usual (BAU) emissions would be without direct targets action. BAU forecast emissions will be 1,181 tCO2e as of 2050.



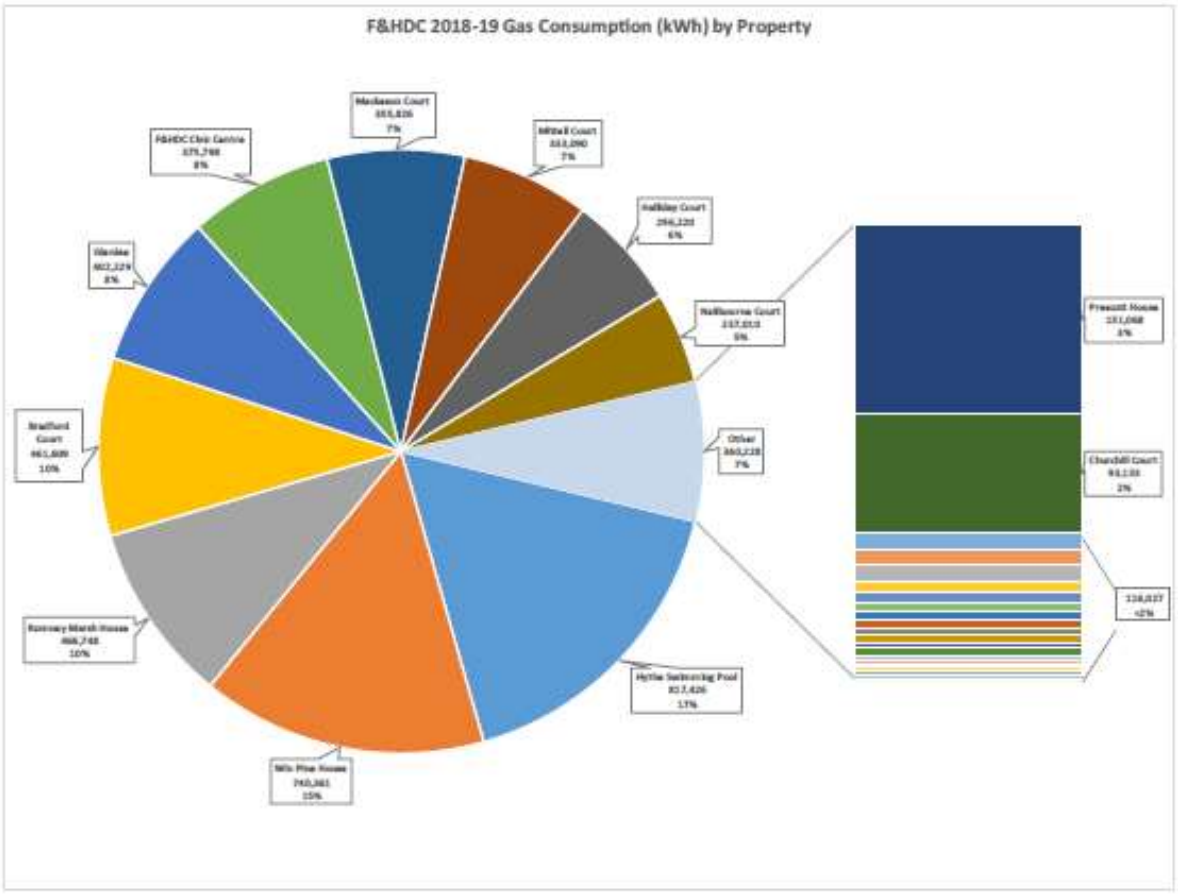
5.3 This analysis demonstrates the significant ongoing contribution of gas consumption to the carbon footprint, especially for housing. It also demonstrates the significance of owned vehicles, particularly those fuelled from the central tank. It therefore suggests that interventions regarding those 2 emissions sources in particular should be a point of focus. The reduction in emissions associated with electricity from 2018 to 2035 are related to forecasts around future electricity generation becoming cleaner.

NB:

• Data for EKH water emissions is currently unavailable for baseline approximation

• Usage for red diesel is an approximation based on 2019 – 2020 data (stationary combustion for grounds maintenance)

5.4 The graph below shows the breakdown of gas usage by property.



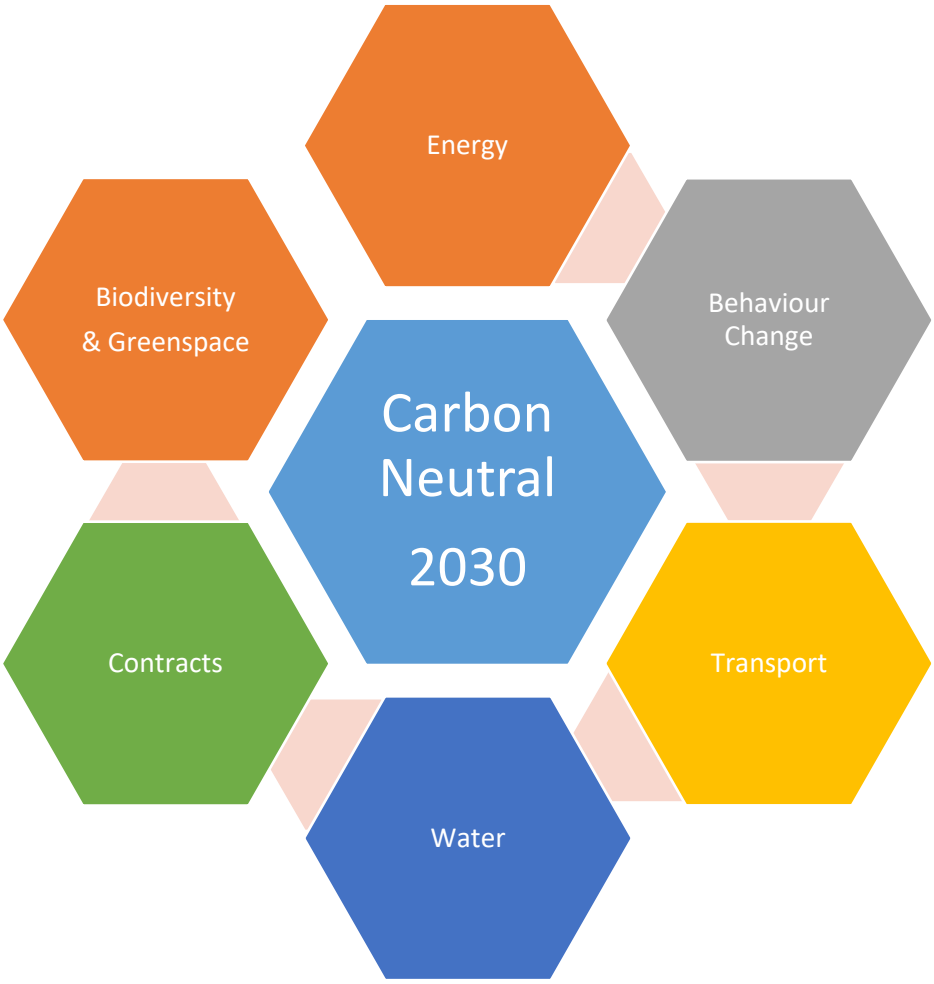
It highlights the significance of the Sheltered Housing schemes (which accounts for 44% of the Council's total consumption), Hythe swimming pool and the Civic Centre.

This finding, together with the positive results from district council staff working remotely during the coronavirus pandemic, has prompted the council to consider moving out of the Castle Hill Avenue Civic Centre building. This would help to reduce the operational carbon footprint and lower operational running costs. The outline feasibility of such a proposal was considered & supported by Cabinet in January 2021 and a more detailed proposal and feasibility study has now been commissioned. The proposed new facility is anticipated to be at least "very good" BREEAM standard.

A survey of the condition of the Council's housing stock is about to be undertaken. When this is completed it will set a baseline that will enable the Council to look at options for reducing carbon emissions, particularly with reference to the Council's sheltered housing. It is also reviewing the potential for external funding such as the Government's Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme. Energy usage and options for dealing with it, whether it is in terms of a fabric-first solution, such as upgrading insulation or considering alternative sources of energy, are likely to form the focus of further assessment of actions to be carried out. Hythe swimming pool is also a large user of gas, however as a new leisure centre is currently planned this is not included as a new action.

6. Themes — changes that are needed and keys areas for reduction

6.1 To become carbon neutral, we believe that there are six main areas of work which will form the basis of actions required, as set out in the diagram below.



Priority areas for reductions

6.2 The diagram shows the areas that are a priority for reducing emissions and provides a framework for our future work. It is likely that the emission reductions will not match this exactly, as there will be variation and additional projects which may impact in ways we cannot predict at this stage. The diagram is indicative and the areas of focus will remain flexible as reductions are measured across a variety of interventions and as we continue to seek and develop projects for 2030/31. It is also worth noting that some areas of action are related to the Council role in influencing behaviours which will make a positive contribution to the district's emissions although may not have a direct relationship to the Council's own emissions or baseline, they are nonetheless felt important in addressing the climate change emergency.

Carbon Reduction Options

6.3 LASER were commissioned to provide the Council with potential Carbon Reduction Options (CRO) based on the baseline findings and their expertise. The intention of the CRO is for them to provide options for immediate and future consideration & appraisal. It also highlights and ranks preferred replacement of energy sources, as well as the less favoured replacement of energy sources recognising the Council will need to take decisions about the energy it continues to consume.

CROs for immediate consideration/action	**CROs for future consideration/action**	**Preferred replacement of energy sources**	**Less Favoured replacement of energy sources**
Estate Rationalisation	Reduce Own Fleet Mileage	PEPPPA	Owned Wind Farm (out of district)
LED Lighting Roll Out	Improve Building Fabric	Offsetting	Owned Solar Farm (out of district)
Reduce Grey Fleet Mileage	Install Heat Pumps		Owned Solar Farm (in district)
Rooftop Solar	Move to EVs (Own Fleet)		Owned Wind Farm (in district)
LED Streetlighting and Controls			District Heating Network
Move to EVs (Grey Fleet)			

6.4 Laser have proposed consideration of a Public Energy Partnership Power Agreement (PEPPA) as a preferred replacement energy source. The proposal would see the council participating in a PPA through which approx. 2GWh of electricity is sourced. Unlike a solar park there is no electricity generated more than F&HDC's consumption and so no carbon positive impact.

6.5 The Council has given consideration to the carbon reduction options proposed and has identified a number of initial actions in section 7 which focus particularly on the CROs for immediate consideration / action identified. However the action plan has also had to give consideration to the wider corporate environment to ensure it is fit for purpose, aligned to the Corporate Plan and can work within the parameters of service provision. Therefore some actions are drawn from the CROs for future consideration / action. Further work will be required before actions on solar farms, PEPPA, wind farms etc are brought forward. Additionally a number of actions contained within our first action plan are focused around increasing knowledge and awareness within the organisation, so there is a culture of climate impact consideration within all aspects of our work.

7. What We're Going to Do

7.1 The key areas of work that we will focus on are supported by specific actions, some of which are already underway and will be continued, completed and/or intensified. Where feasible some preliminary costings have been made but each project will need detailed costings that will be made at the time. (This will also depend on future discussions about the Civic Centre that are currently ongoing). It is intended that further assessment of the actions will be carried out by an expert organisation, such as the Carbon Trust, this will be a key next step in our work.

7.2 The Carbon Reduction Measures listed below will be broken down into a phased delivery programme following budgetary and resource considerations by the Council.

How we will work/behaviour change

1. Introduce Carbon literacy / climate change training for staff and Members to ensure emissions are considered on a routine basis.
2. Develop and propose a checklist of criteria to inform strategies, plans and future decisions; and to ensure all strategies, plans and decision going forward properly consider their contribution to the 2030 carbon neutral target.
3. Consider a Climate Change Champions staff scheme.
4. Measure waste produced by the Council operations so that it can be reduced and managed.
5. End single-use plastic on own estate; review office consumables and recycling to minimise waste.
6. Reduce printing and paper waste through increase in digital systems and services.
7. Consider how the Council can work with contractors to move towards Ultra Low Emission Vehicles through ensuring depots have sufficient power supply and charging infrastructure.
8. Following an assessment of good practice and relevant training for staff and members, reports to cabinet to include a climate impact statement

Energy

9. Carry out energy audits across the whole Council non-residential property and assets portfolio and implement low cost / no cost carbon reduction measures, e.g. energy efficiency measures such as insulation or LED lighting in buildings, as well as converting street lighting to LED. This would be as part of a programmed schedule of works when items scheduled for renewal and where financially feasible.
10. Review sub-metering installations as part of an improved energy monitoring strategy.
11. Seek to source electricity purchased by the Council via a 'green tariff'.
12. Expand the energy awareness campaign amongst council staff, members and contractors to reduce energy use.
13. Consider the potential and implications for voltage optimization technology to reduce energy consumption.

14. Reduce energy losses by retro-fit technologies and use of more energy efficient building fabric where economically and operationally viable.
15. Examine installation of low emission heating for non-residential council buildings and sheltered housing, e.g. heat pumps; heat network.
16. Identify if there are any suitable locations for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on council owned buildings and sheltered housing that have a robust business case for the investment.

Transport

17. Explore options for a phased upgrade of the council fleet to hybrid (HEV) or full battery electric vehicles (BEV) where economically and operationally viable. To also actively consider new technology for example, solar powered commercial vehicles.
18. Add to the Council's own estate EV charging infrastructure and evaluate the outputs from first phase to consider future programmes of infrastructure.
19. Examine the business case for Vehicle-to-Grid EV charging to reduce energy bills.
20. Explore the use of EV staff pool car(s) to reduce grey business mileage costs.
21. Assess the scope for extending sustainable travel incentives for staff including a car share scheme. Encourage staff to walk or cycle to work and understanding potential barriers to them doing so.
22. Expand opportunities for flexible working.

Water

23. Install water saving technology within all commercial buildings within the Folkestone and Hythe District Council portfolio. This could include water outlet rationalisation adaptors to taps and showers and water pressure regulating systems.
24. Explore the potential for rain water harvesting systems and treatment in Council buildings.
25. Inform and encourage all Council staff and Members to take a leadership role in promoting reductions in water usage.

Procurement

26. Strengthen sustainable procurement policies to purchase/lease energy efficient materials, services and technologies where viable and that support the local economy.
27. Seek where appropriate to incorporate carbon reduction requirements into new tender contracts including electric vehicles (EVs).
28. Where possible ensure contracted out service proposals e.g. cleaning services, include and deliver high levels of sustainability and demonstrate commitment to carbon reduction. Consider the carbon footprint and packaging waste associated with catering at council events with the aim to reduce this as far as possible.

Biodiversity / greenspaces

29. Review the use of peat, redesign mowing regimes and support adaptation measures such as tree planting for carbon sequestration and 'cooling-off' benefits.
30. Use council-owned land to increase biodiversity and carry out tree planting where appropriate.

31. Continue to work with Environment Agency, Kent County Council, business organisations and community groups to develop appropriate flood mitigation measures and tree planting schemes across the district.
32. Ensure that the Local Plan continues to develop and implement policies that will deliver improved net zero carbon building standards - subject to national policy[2]
33. Complete the comprehensive review of Green Infrastructure Strategy that will support both the Places and Policies Local Plan and the Core Strategy Review. The strategy will identify the needs and opportunities for the district and green infrastructure projects. It will contribute to ensuring strategic allocations and other development delivers green infrastructure requirements.

[2] At the time of writing, the Government has said that it will review environmental building standards through the Future Homes Standard. This may introduce mandatory standards for energy efficiency that new homes will be required to meet.

Summary of actions

Stage 1- immediate actions/measures	•Carbon literacy / climate change training for staff and Members •Climate Change Champions staff scheme •Measure waste produced by the Council operations •End single-use plastic •Reduce printing and paper waste •Expand the energy awareness campaign •Explore the use of EV staff pool car(s) •Assess the scope for extending sustainable travel incentives for staff •Promoting reductions in water usage •Review the use of peat, redesign mowing regimes etc •Convert street lighting to LED •Review carbon and waste impacts of catering for events
Stage 2 - Short term (will require more research)	•Checklist of criteria to inform decision making •Review sub-metering installations •Reports to cabinet to include a climate impact statement •Carry out energy audits across the whole Council non-residential property •Potential for voltage optimization •Evaluate adding to the Council's own estate EV charging •Expand opportunities for flexible working •Sustainable procurement policies •Council-owned land to increase biodiversity •Switch to green tariff for Council purchased electricitry •Review of Green Infrastructure Strategy
Stage 3 - Medium - Long term (will require more research and in depth assessment)	•Work with contractors to move towards Ultra Low Emission Vehicles •Reduce energy losses by retro-fit technologies •Examine installation of low emission heating •Identify any suitable locations for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels •Explore phased upgrade of the council fleet to hybrid (HEV) or full battery electric vehicles (BEV) •Examine the business case for Vehicle-to-Grid EV •Install water saving technology within all commercial buildings within the Council portfolio. •Explore the potential for rain water harvesting systems and treatment. •Seek to incorporate carbon reduction requirements into new tender contracts •Where possible contracted out service proposals include and deliver high levels of sustainability •Develop appropriate flood mitigation measures and tree planting schemes •Ensure that the Local Plan sets developments and land use standards that reduce carbon and increase sustainability (subject to proposed Government reforms of the planning system)
Stage 4 - Carbon Offsetting if required.	•Offsetting remaining carbon emissions

8. The Way to Achieving Carbon Neutrality – Monitoring and Future Plans

Monitoring

8.1 There will be an annual review of emissions (using the Local Government Association model) to assess progress against the ambition of target zero by 2030. The Council will update the study each year to monitor progress in reducing carbon emissions. As a consequence the key areas for reduction may need to be reviewed. The scope of the baseline study may also be changed to include other sources of emissions to take into account changes to the council's estate. (This is part of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology and recognises that organisations may change their scope and structure over time.)

8.2 Scrutiny and review by officers and members through the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group and the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee will provide recommendations under key lines of enquiry to Cabinet. It will ensure wider buy-in for long-term actions, in the context of significant financial pressures on the Council which make such buy-ins vital.

8.3 To facilitate the above a data and carbon footprint recording system will be developed, using the available LGA model by the Low Carbon and Sustainability Specialist. This will enable the systematic recording of Folkestone & Hythe District Council's Carbon Footprint capturing all elements to include energy, waste, water, transport and residential.

9. The Wider Picture – Reducing Carbon Emissions and Mitigating Climate Change

9.1 Clearly Folkestone & Hythe District Council's greenhouse gas emissions are only a small part of a much wider picture, but the Council believes that it can help lead the way for residents, community groups, businesses, visitors and others in the district in the way it behaves in addressing particular high impact actions.

9.2 As set out in the Council's resolution, in point 5, we will "develop a strategy for Folkestone and Hythe District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District". Engaging communities, businesses and individuals will be an important role for the Council. It is well placed to act as a facilitator by supporting existing and future community initiatives.

9.3 The District Council will work with Kent County Council, neighbouring authorities and others in the county in order to take a collaborative approach. In this way the Council will consider ways of reducing emissions throughout the district and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Reducing emissions throughout the district – Influencing Others; Championing Change

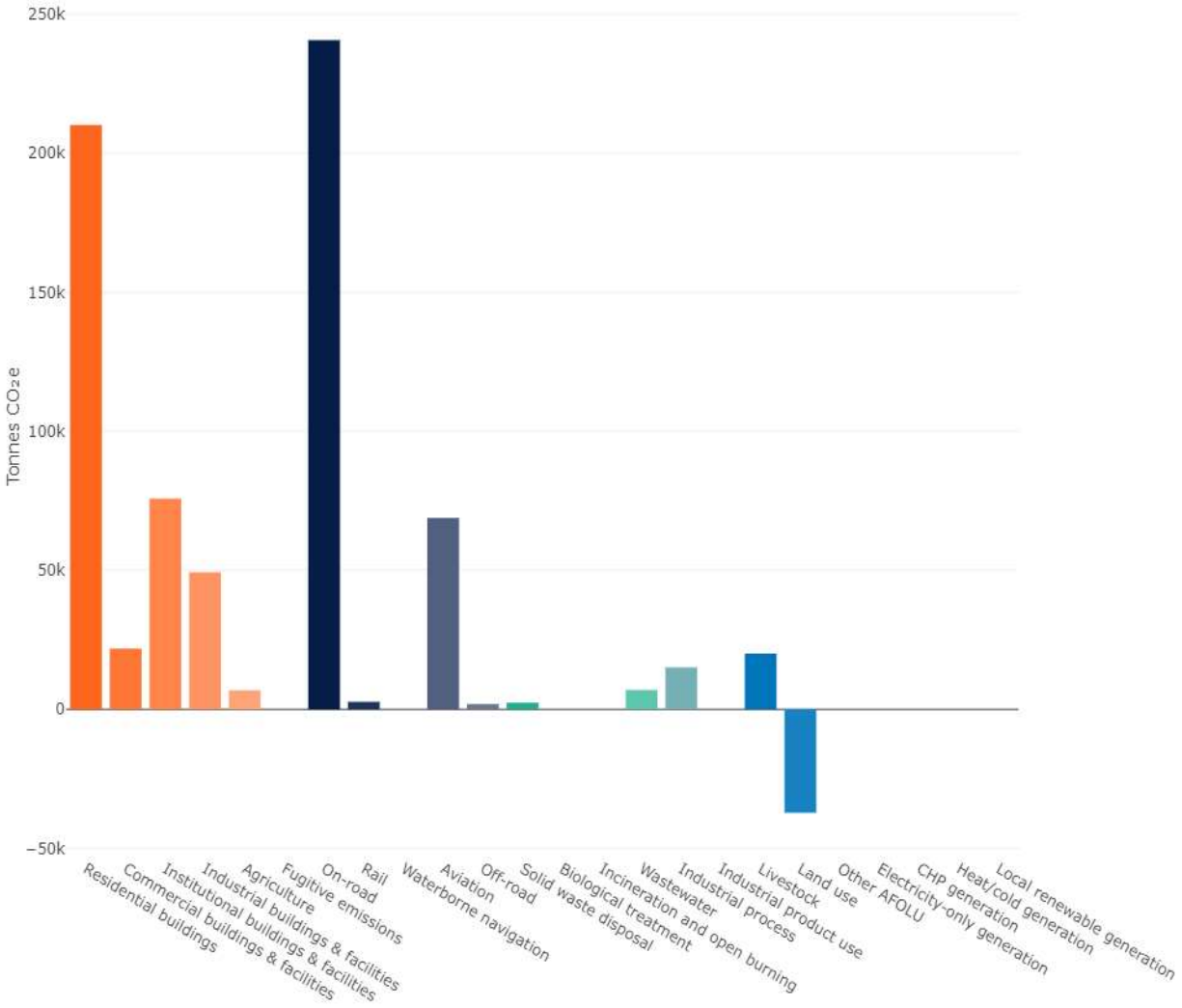
9.4 Greenhouse gas emissions arising from all sources within the district can be estimated using the SCATTER (Setting, City, Area, Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) tool.

9.5 The SCATTER tool is an online resource for local authorities and city regions designed to standardise greenhouse gas reporting, in alignment with international frameworks, and has been developed in collaboration between the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Nottingham City Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research at the University of Manchester.

9.6 Using the latest freely available data, the SCATTER tool maps greenhouse gas emissions across a number of key sectors.

9.7 The figure below shows the greenhouse gas emissions arising directly within Folkestone & Hythe District from all sources. This shows the large contribution to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from road travel, homes and air travel.

9.8 Industrial and commercial buildings and facilities also contribute greenhouse gas emissions, but to a lesser extent, as does industrial processes and livestock. Other sources of greenhouse gas emissions (rail travel, agriculture, off-road travel, waste disposal and waste water treatment) are relatively minor contributors, with land use activities, such as woodland and land management, absorbing more emissions than they generate.



9.9 This suggests that, to create a carbon-neutral district, we must focus on reducing the number of journeys we make, travelling using the most sustainable means we can and making sure that our homes are well-insulated and use the most energy efficient appliances we can.

9.10 It should be noted that there has been significant decarbonisation within the power sector. The sector's emissions halved from 2012 to 2017, firstly due to a substantial reduction in coal-fired generation and a corresponding increase in the share of renewables in the energy mix, and secondly because the improved energy efficiency of products has reduced demand for power. The share of electricity from coal in the UK declined from 40 per cent in 2012 to 7 per cent in 2017. In the third quarter of 2019 less than 1 per cent of generation came from coal and oil combined.

Mitigating and adapting to climate change

9.11 If all human-induced greenhouse gas emissions stopped today, the climate would continue to change for hundreds of years to come. Sea levels would continue to rise for over one thousand years. We need to reduce emissions but we must, at the same time, adapt to the changes that are unavoidable.

9.12 Adapting to our changing climate is critically important. While not within the immediate scope of this strategy, the council will be including adapting as part of its approach to addressing the

climate emergency both at organisational as well as district levels. Further work will be carried out on this issue over the next 12 months.

Relevant Documents

Folkestone and Hythe Places and Policies Local Plan

Relevant policies

Policy NE1 Enhancing and Managing Access to the Natural Environment

Policy NE2 Biodiversity

Policy NE3 Protecting the District's Landscapes and Countryside

Policy NE5 Light Pollution and External Illumination

Policy NE8 Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Policy NE9 Development Around The Coast

Policy CC1 Reducing Carbon Emissions

Policy CC2 Sustainable Design and Construction

Policy CC3 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Policy CC4 Wind Turbine Development

Policy CC5 Small Scale Wind Turbines and Existing Development

Policy CC6 Solar Farms

Other Documents from Kent County Council

Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

Kent's Plan Bee pollinator action plan

Kent Active Travel Strategy

Renewable Energy Action Plan for Kent 2017

Kent Environment Strategy