

Minutes

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Remote meeting
Date	Thursday, 9 September 2021
Present	Councillors Anthony Hills, Connor McConville and Lesley Whybrow (Chair)
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Gary Fuller
Officers Present:	Andy Blaszkowicz (Director of Housing and Operations), Kate Clark (Case Officer - Committee Services), Olu Fatokun (Low Carbon Senior Specialist), Adrian Hammond (Housing Lead Specialist), Fred Miller (Transportation Lead Specialist), Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist)
Others Present:	Tom Henderson (Climate Change Adaptation Team, KCC)

16. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

17. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 were agreed. The Chair's signature will be added to these showing approval.

18. **Private Sector Housing - Energy Efficiency update**

Mr Adrian Hammond, Housing Lead Specialist, gave members a presentation on Private Sector Housing – Energy Efficiency Initiatives Update. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mention was made of the Local Authority Delivery Scheme 2 (LADS2) in the presentation and Mr Hammond advised a further scheme to be launched is LADS3 which has a greater focus on zero carbon activity. This will be looked at

towards the end of 2021 and Mr Hammond hopes to bring an update to a future working group meeting.

Members comments and questions included:

- Heat pumps – cost prohibitive at present, however there maybe scope within the LADS3 scheme. £350K has been allocated to FHDC which equates to improvement for 35 properties.
- Private Landlords – the PSH team concentrate on enforcement activities, however landlords are made aware of their responsibilities along with grant funding availability.
- Solar Panels – no initiatives at present, however looking for a clearer steer from Government.
- Warmer Homes – grant funding to assist households on low incomes and with long-term disabilities to improve the energy performance of their homes.

The Chair thanked Mr Hammond for the presentation and asked that the working group receives regular updates.

19. **Adapting to Kent's changing climate**

Mr Tom Henderson from KCC's Climate Change Adaptation Team, gave a presentation Adapting to Kent's Changing Climate. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr Henderson opened up his introduction and said that Kent County Council is the largest local authority in the country with a large coastal area and 18,000 properties at risk of flooding, resilience is needed. He went on to say that temperatures are rising, the last 15 years have been the hottest, resulting in more heatwaves, drought risks and flash flooding. Climate denial is not an option.

Mr Henderson went through his presentation and relayed to members the following comments:

- STARS2C project. Short term adaptation to long term resilience to climate change. Countries across Europe have National Adaptation Programmes, however there is a general lack of understanding of costs; funding and tools available.
- Examples of resilience tools – seawall defences with model projections looking at heights and flood risks; buffer blocks, these absorb water and prevent subsidence; and increasing public awareness.
- Important to note that although climate change is about mitigation, emphasis must also be about adaptation.
- Cool towns – Margate is one of the pilot towns for this European project and the aim is to reduce ambient temperatures and reduce flooding by planting trees. Initially running for two years, however planted trees are fairly small at present

- H2OSource2sea – Led by the Kent Wildlife Trust. Assessing risks such as Kent's water management challenges; climate change; population; and land use change.
- Poly tunnels – these create a significant flood risk, irrigation of fruits creates massive water run-off. Farmers are able to produce water saving data to help them with planning and budgets.
- Hacklinge Marshes (between Deal and Sandwich in East Kent) – licensed for the abstraction of water, managed by the EA. Farmers are able to trade water rights, however the EA system seems archaic and improvements are being made to make the system easier to use.
- KCC has a dedicated comms team for climate resilience. FHDC comms workstream exists, however to what extent they work with KCC will be checked.

Members commented on how this presentation had brought home the realism of the climate change problem. Raising awareness with residents was key and to understand the differences of mitigation and adaptation.

Members were advised that climate resilience work will begin on district wide communications to residents and businesses, noting that further information to be brought to the working group on mitigation and adaptation.

The Chair asked that relevant links are included in the minutes as follows:
For the climate change impact assessment for Kent and Medway:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/climate-change/kents-changing-climate/climate-change-risk-and-impact-assessment>

For the STAR2Cs project: www.star2cs.com

20. **LED Lamp-post project update**

Mr Fred Miller, Transportation Specialist, presented slides on the District Street Lighting Proposed LED Upgrade. This presentation is attached to these minutes.

Members thanked Mr Miller for the update and made the following comments and observations:

- Costs – Approximately 50% to be met by the Climate Change reserve with the remainder to be funded by capital resources. Approximate cost per lamp column is £205. Members asked for a further breakdown after conversion.
- 1084 street lights in the district and the plan would be to dispense responsibility and maintenance of as many as possible.
- Baseline figures could be affected as we transfer polluting assets, adjustments to be reported back to this working group.
- Biodiversity loss effects on LED lights use. Possible brightness affecting moths and other insects. The street lights are controlled by one central

system, which could mean lights can be dimmed or switch off to mitigate biodiversity loss effects.

The Chair turned members' attention to EV lamp-post charging points. Mr Miller advised that KCC are still working on the strategy for this, however it doesn't look promising. Cllr Hills, in his capacity as a KCC member, asked Mr Miller to provide further details for follow up.

Mr Miller did comment that the implementation of car park EV charging points is progressing well.

21. **Update on the Carbon Action Plan**

Mr Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist, presented the latest updates on the Council's Carbon Action Plan. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr Tofts reminded members that the Carbon Action Plan was adopted by Cabinet in February. Discussions around performance had taken place and how the KPI for carbon emissions could be framed. Could this be a staged decrease or indicate larger steps?

It was interesting to note that Dover District Council had been reporting on carbon emissions for the last decade, however although generally emissions are reducing, it seems unlikely on current trends that net zero would be reached by 2030.

The Chair introduced the recently appointed Low Carbon Senior Specialist, Olu Fatokun. Ms Fatokun said that in the short time of being in her role, she had started to look at the district wide structure of the carbon action plan, wider publicising and climate impact statement training for Council report authors. She also mentioned she had been working with a carbon savings expert for technical skills.

Private Sector Housing Energy Efficiency Initiatives Update

September 2021

Private Sector Housing

- Approximately 50,000 residential properties
- Approximately 45,000 in the private sector
- 9,000 homes private rented sector (PRS)
- Private Sector Housing work to deal with poor housing conditions
- Promote energy efficiency in PRS and owner occupied homes
- Range of partnership initiatives

Private Sector Housing

- **Kent Wide Warm Homes Initiative**

- KCC partnership with districts
- Services delivered by Aran Services Ltd
- Funded through Energy Provider ECO levy funding
- Targeted at low income households
- People with long-term illnesses/disability
- Insulation
- Energy efficient boilers
- FHDC has assisted with targeting
- Approximately 70 households assisted since April

Private Sector Housing

- **Winter Warmth Grants**

- Targeted at vulnerable households
- Over 65 years of age
- Funding through the Better Care Initiative
- Aim to prevent hospital admission through ill health
- Measures on average £10K
- Insulation and energy efficient boilers
- Approximately 50 grants provided since 2015

Private Sector Housing

• Disabled Facilities Grants

- Grants of up to £30K to adapt the homes of vulnerable people/low incomes – assessment by OTA
- Enabling them to live independently in their homes
- Where energy efficiency shortfalls identified works are extended
- New insulation/energy efficient boilers
- 5-10 cases each year

• Joint Working with Private Sector landlords

- Awareness raising
- Sign posting
- Where necessary enforcement

Private Sector Housing

- **New Funding Streams – Local Authority Delivery Scheme 2**

- Government funding delivered through South East Energy Hub
- Works Contractor – Happy Energy (Private contractor)
- £350K targeted at F & H District
- Targeting low income households < £30K
- Landlords required to make a 30% contribution to any works
- Properties with an EPC of D and below
- Average spend per property £10K
- Working with Happy Energy to target low income households
- Non-zero carbon works – insulation/gas boilers
- Spend by 31 March 2022

Private Sector Housing

- Works to date energy efficiency given available funding
- LADS 3 due to be announced later this year
- Hopefully focus on Zero Carbon measures
- Air sources heat pumps in addition to insulation/Innovations
- Due to have a longer spending period
- More significant funding
- Ongoing internal working to respond to bidding opportunities
- Further support from South East Energy HUB
- Support from our in-house Carbon Advisor

Private Sector Housing

Any questions

Adapting to Kent's Changing Climate

Tom Henderson

Climate Change Adaptation Team

Kent County Council



The Climate Challenge

Climate change: UK to speed up target to cut carbon emissions

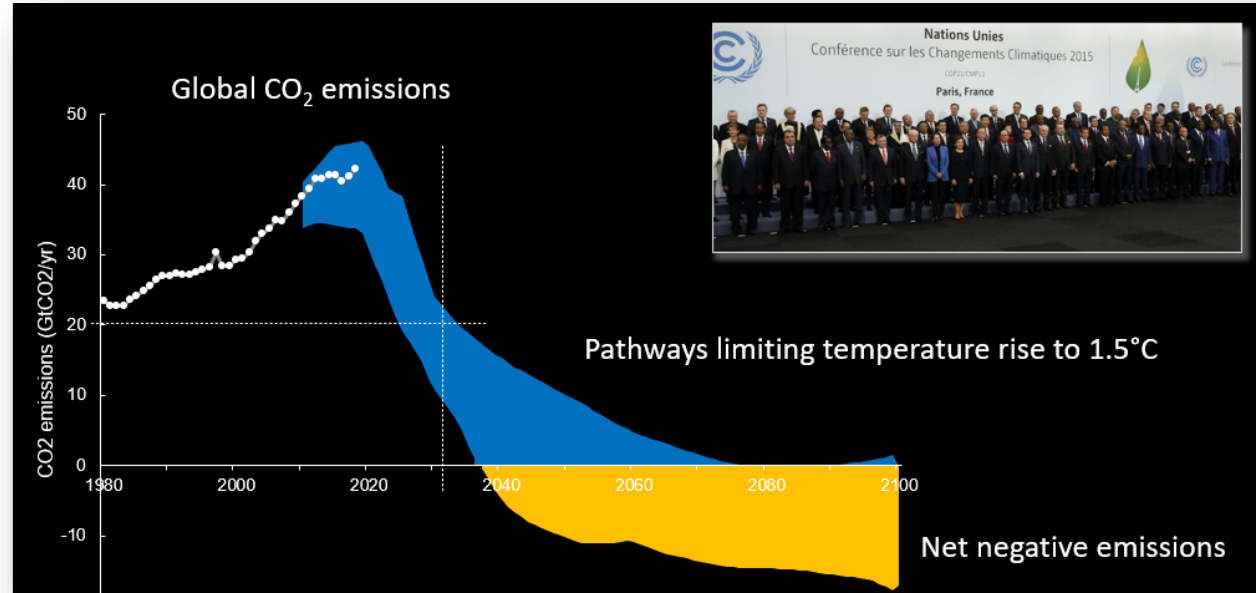
By Roger Harrabin
BBC environment analyst

20 April Comments

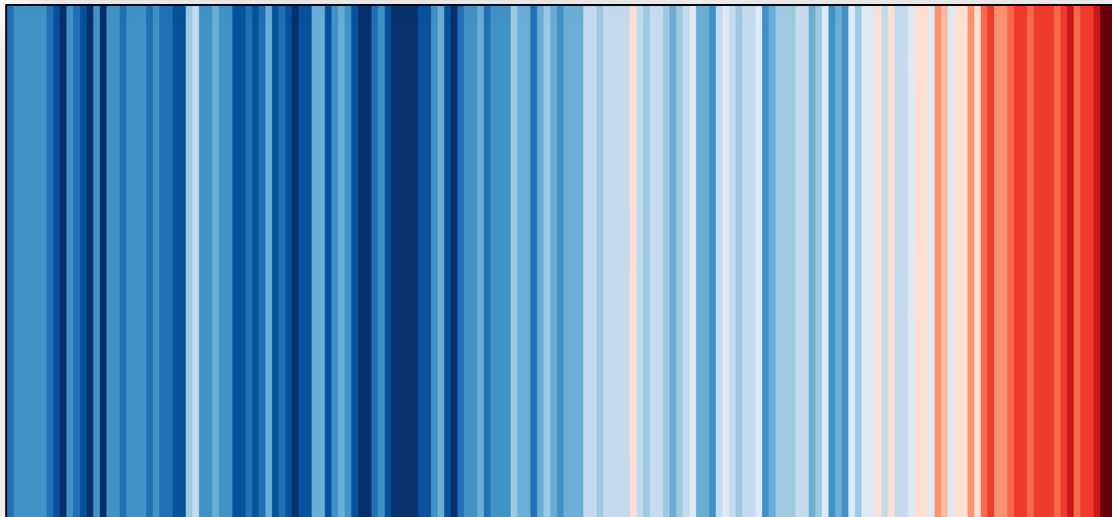
Climate change



Radical new climate change commitments will set the UK on course to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035, the UK government has announced.



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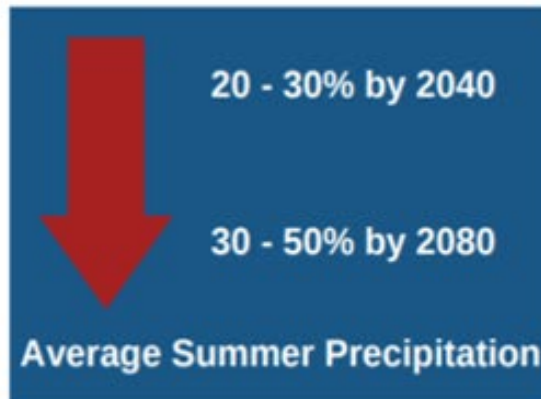
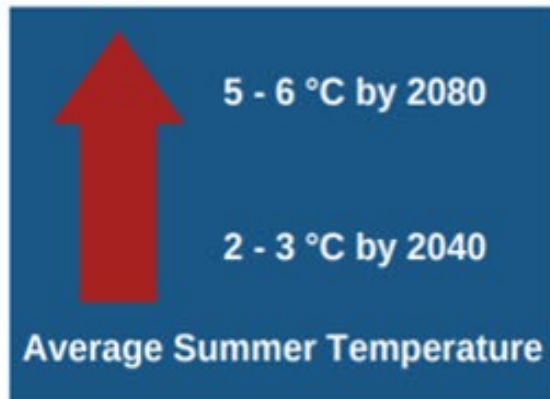
The UK's first climate change refugees?

Are these the UK's first climate change refugees?

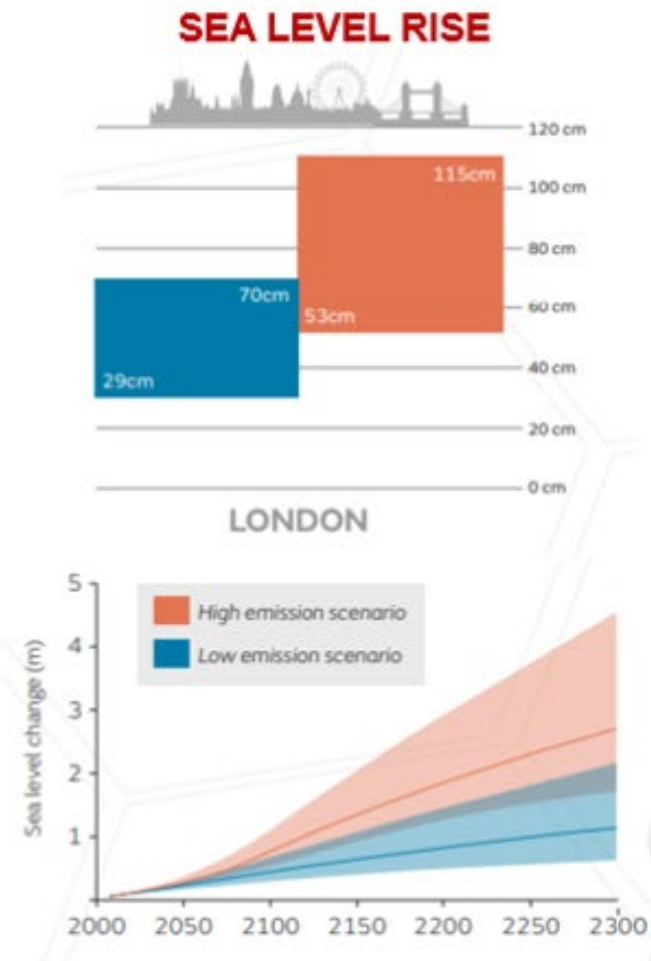
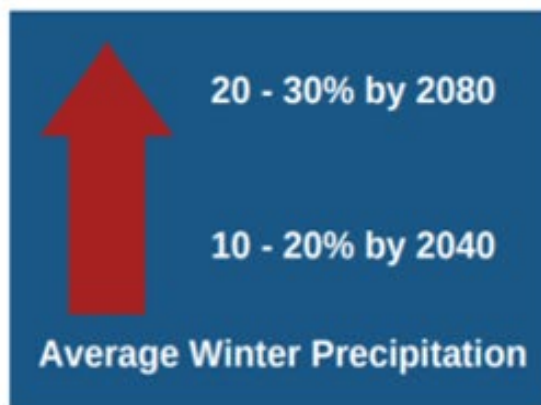
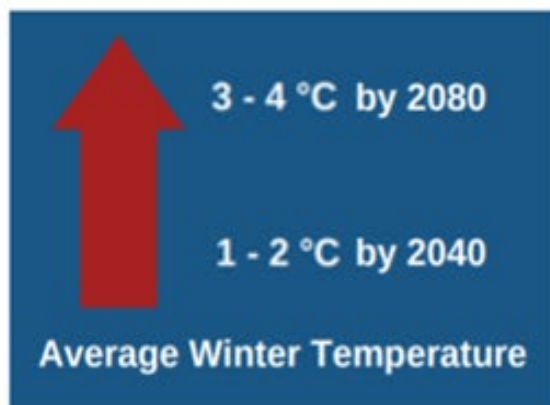
The residents of Fairbourne, a village in Gwynedd, have been labelled as such after the government announced they would have to leave their homes.

Future climate changes (UKCP18)

**HOTTER
DRIER
SUMMERS**









**WARMER
WETTER
WINTERS**



Kent Climate Change Risk Assessment



		High temperatures	Storm events	Flooding and coastal change	Water shortages	Other
	Agriculture	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Chemical leaching
	Industry	Medium		High		
	People & built environment	High		High		Air quality
	Natural Environment	High	High	High	Medium	
	Transport	High	High	High		Soil instability
	Utilities	High	Medium	Medium		Drought Landslips



Our climate is changing. We need to adapt now.

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Principles of effective climate adaptation

Given extreme uncertainty, general lack of awareness of risks, and lack of appetite for funding for perceived 'future' problem we encourage:

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- **Participation and awareness**
- **Integration into wider policy**
- **Multi-functionality**
- **Flexible actions**
- **Co-design**
- **Cost effectiveness**
- **Incremental measures**



STAR2Cs Project



SHORT TERM ADAPTATION FOR LONG TERM RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

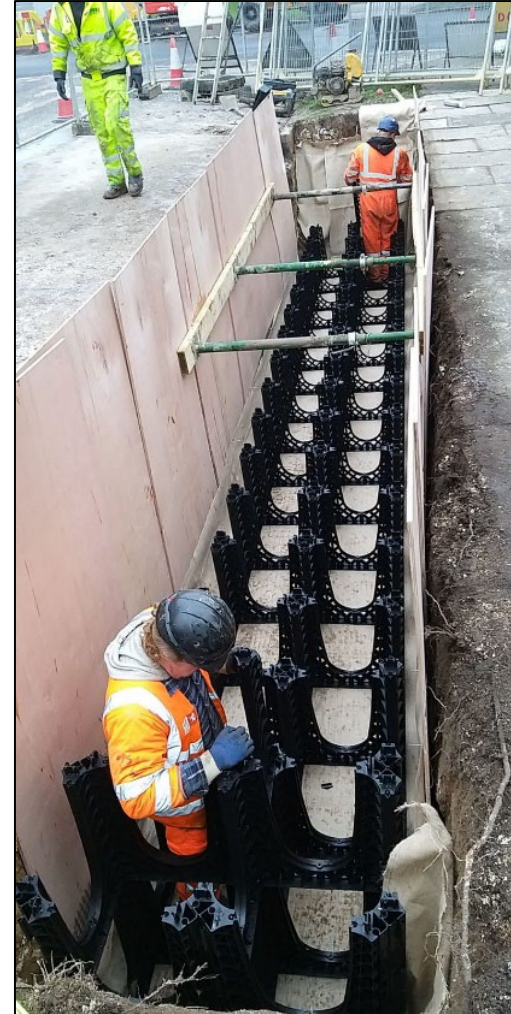
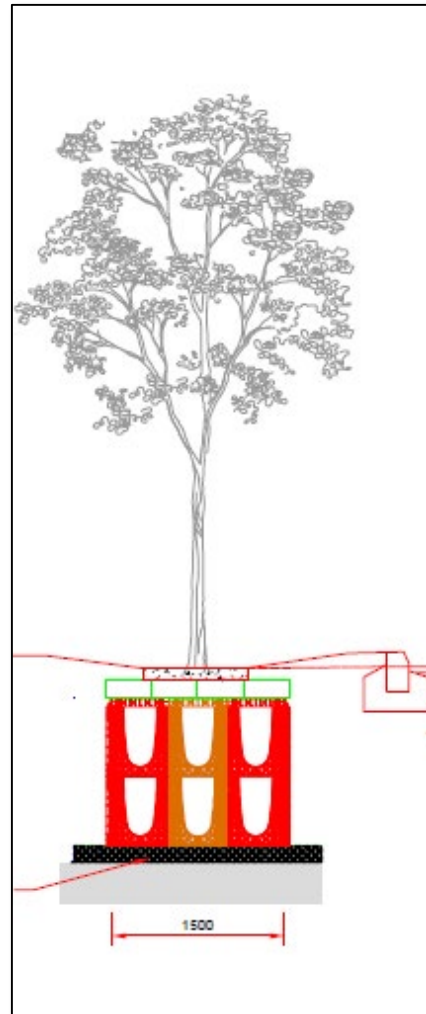
Our climate is changing and the effects are becoming clear.

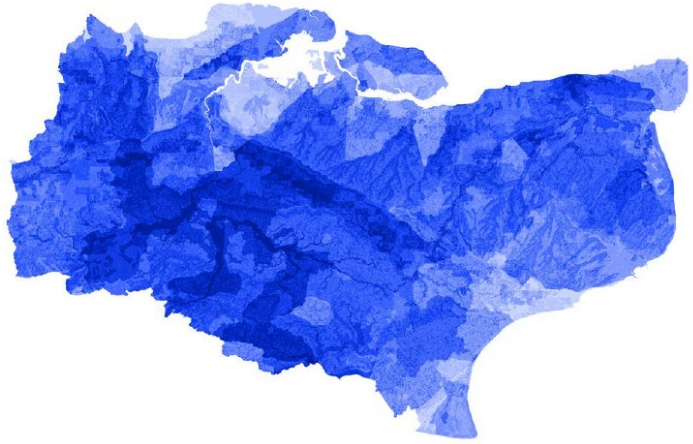


[DISCOVER MORE](#) →

High Temperatures

Cool Towns Margate Pilot

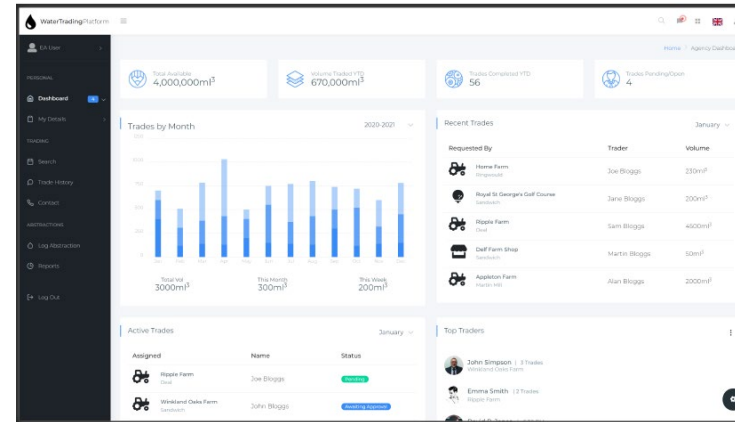




Spatial Risk Assessment for Water



Rainwater Harvesting Tool



Water Trading Scheme Pilot

District Street Lighting Proposed LED Upgrade

OPTIONS

Option 1 - Do nothing, the council continues to maintain and replace the assets as and when necessary.

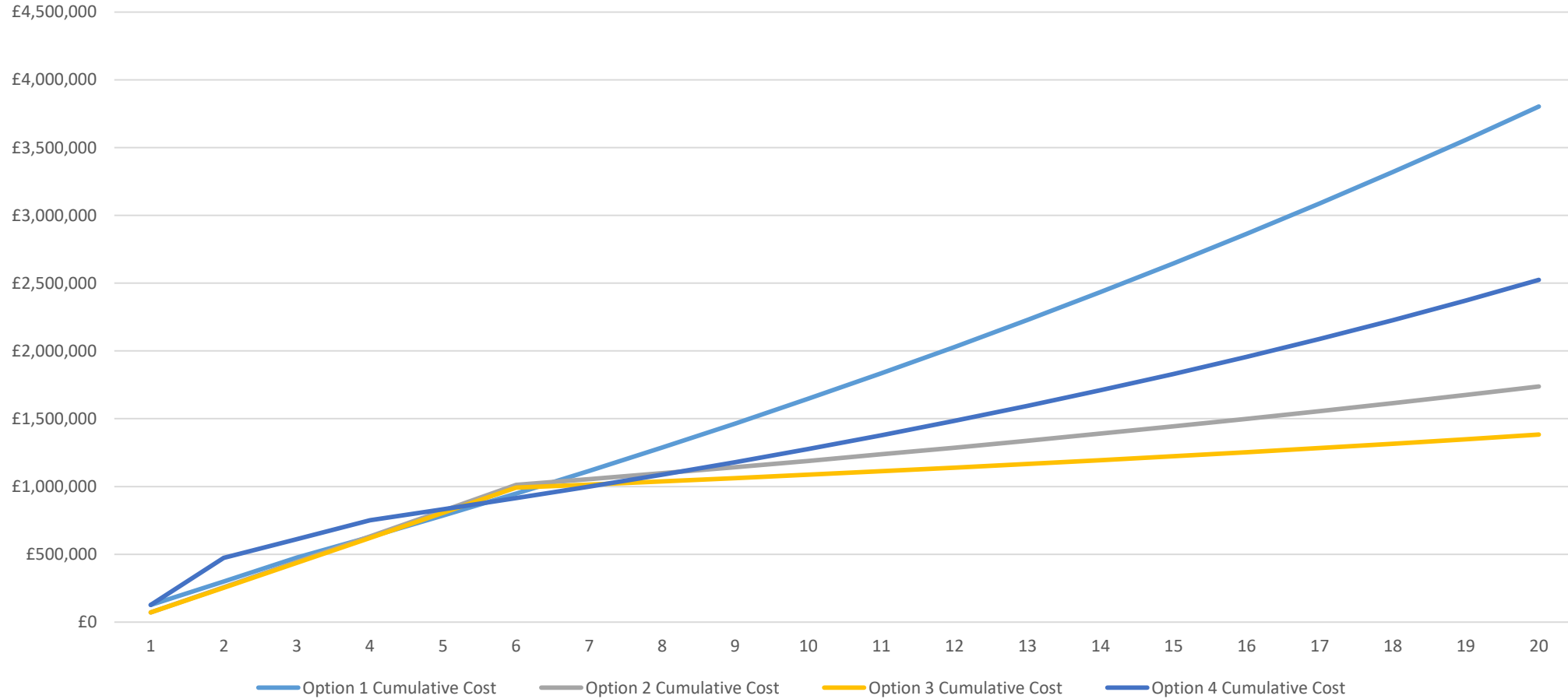
Option 2 - Upgrade and keep all lights, FHDC would upgrade all of its lights to KCC Specification, but keep and maintain them itself

Option 3 – Upgrade all and transfer where possible, FHDC would upgrade all street lights and transfer all adoptable assets to KCC

Option 4 – Upgrade transferable assets and transfer, leave others. FHDC would upgrade only the transferable assets and transfer all adoptable assets to KCC.

COST MODEL

Streetlights Cost Model



SURVEY

- CLT commissioned survey to establish redundant assets, and lights that could potentially be adopted by KCC
- Survey work completed in July 2021 on 1084 highway lights

SURVEY FINDINGS

Asset	Quantity
Columns available for upgrade for KCC adoption	340
Remaining assets not suitable for adoption but can be LED upgraded for easier maintenance and energy savings	723
Columns to be permanently disconnected/removed from this project	21

Projected Costs

- Total Project Cost- **£815,034**
- Proposal:
 - that Climate Change Reserve funds the LED conversion costs + commuted sum + 50% of project management costs= **£478,370**
 - Remaining costs for repairs to assets & replacements plus 50% of project management costs totalling **£336,665** to be met from available capital resources. This may impact upon the council's future capital investment plans.
 - CLT/Cabinet to consider

CARBON EMISSIONS SAVINGS

Lamp Model	Number of lamps	Fixture Wattage	Carbon Footprint
High Pressure Sodium (current)	1084	90	169,999 Kg
LED Model (Proposed)	1084	18	34,000 Kg
Carbon Savings / Year			135,999 Kg

Project Timescales

- Report to Cabinet in October 2021
- Order sent to supplier in November 2021
- Lead time for parts & delivery- February 2022
- Programme start date- March 2022
- KCC adoptions expected completion April 2022
- Retained assets start May 2022
- Completion December 2022

Questions?

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STAGE	ACTION	PROGRESS
Stage 1: Short-term Actions	Carbon literacy / climate change training for staff and Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 members of staff have completed the Climate Change e-learning module and monthly emails reminders are sent out by Organisational Development. Deadline set for completion by all staff by end of October 2021. Approximately 30 people managers and members attended the climate emergency sessions. Training scheduled for 18 November 2021 for report writing for officers, and training will include climate impact statement.
	Climate Change Champions staff scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation for Climate Change Green Champions has been added to the climate change page on the intranet. Personnel Contact details updated to Olu Fatokun on the intranet. Conservation day took place on the 14th of July 2021 and another one is planned for September at Romney Warren. Next meeting for Green Champions is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd of September 2021 and invitations have been sent out. Another call-out for volunteers should go out with the weekly news update being sent out by Organisational Development. Forward plan of environmental days for the next year being drawn up by Climate Change Specialist for distributing to Green Champions. Currently exploring potential to publicise this more widely.
	Measure waste produced by the Council operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work being undertaken to alter the waste streams coming out of the Civic Centre and reduce recycling contamination (changes to bins and clarifications/communications for waste streams). Waste bins have been ordered and publicity being arranged with Print Room.
	End single-use plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement Specialist is speaking to watercooler supplier about putting a stop on plastic cups. Awaiting feedback from a health and safety perspective on proposals regarding replacement of other plastic and non-recyclable with re-usable options.

Reduce printing and paper waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Account (customer self-service) roll out and E-billing in place. Continued expansion of My Account planned throughout 2021. Licensing and fees information now being sent out by e-billing rather than by letters. • Numbers of photocopiers in Civic Centre has been reduced.
Expand the energy awareness campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular energy and water updates going out to staff as part of Organisational Development's weekly all-staff messages. • Further ideas to be sought at next Climate Change Champions Meeting.
Explore the use of EV staff pool car(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys are currently underway in all of our car parks including the Civic Centre visitor spaces. The surveys will establish whether a car park can accommodate the EV charge-points. We hope to get the results of the surveys in the next few weeks. • Climate Change Specialist is exploring potential for use of Co-Wheels (or similar) electric car-sharing scheme for staff and public users.
Assess the scope for extending sustainable travel incentives for staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycle-to-work scheme already in place; information on cycle training is on the intranet. Climate Change Specialist is researching Stagecoach corporate discount scheme. • Need to assess whether commuting patterns justify further initiatives; levels of use of Civic Centre desk space will be kept under review through new desk-booking system.
Promoting reductions in water usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included alongside a general energy awareness campaign with regular staff bulletins sent out every Friday by the council's Organisational Development team.
Review the use of peat, redesign mowing regimes, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review of mowing regimes is ongoing. • Use of peat-free alternatives in 2022 should hopefully resume.
Convert street lighting to LED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation Specialist will be providing an update to the Working Group on 9 September 2021. Report will go to Cabinet in October 2021.
Review carbon and waste impacts of catering for events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose this is reviewed in October to see if events return to 'normal' or significant percentage remain online. New caterers are being used; Climate Change Specialist will investigate to see if they have a sustainability policy. Again ability to use china plates etc. depends on post-pandemic hygiene measures and Civic Centre take-up.

Stage 2: Medium-term Actions	Checklist of criteria to inform decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report-writing guidance is now on the intranet, along with contact details for reports. Climate Change Specialist is currently providing comments for report writers. • Climate Impact Statement (CIS) was included in reports for last Cabinet meeting (July 2021). Training session is scheduled for 18 November 2021 to train report authors on how to undertake their own Climate Impact Statement (CIS). • To trail CIS for 6 months, and then contact report authors and Cabinet Members to find out if it has helped and how they have incorporated suggested mitigating factors to help review.
	Reports to cabinet to include a climate impact statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing; see update for checklist of criteria to inform decision-making above.
	Review sub-metering installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring specific bills for individual occupants - awaiting decision on usage of Civic Centre.
	Carry out energy audits across the whole Council non-residential property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LASER have been contacted as potential provider and waiting to hear back on whether LASER will charge for this service.
	Potential for voltage optimisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would seem to be practical only at Civic Centre, but would need further specialist advice to look at power consumption - dependent on decision on future of Civic Centre.
	Evaluate adding to the Council's own estate EV charging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding available is for charge-points that can be accessed by local residents at all times. However, under the workplace-charging scheme, we may also qualify for 75% grant for the depot. The remaining 25% plus any electricity upgrade costs would need to be funded by the council so we need to have discussions about budget position.
	Expand opportunities for flexible working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff have been introduced to the new Agile Working Framework at the staff briefing. To explore and review uptake and impact of Agile Working in July 2022.
	Sustainable procurement policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement staff attending KCC Climate Change Network Procurement meetings. • Procurement staff watching for training opportunities and case studies to advance our understanding of how best to implement in the public sector, especially with regard to other obligations.

	Review of Green Infrastructure Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work well progressed. Initial summary of potential projects produced and ideas from consultees have been received. More detailed work (e.g. mapping of specific routes/projects) is on-going.
	Council-owned land to increase biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already in progress; need to assess land owned by council; Climate Change Specialist to discuss current practice with Grounds Maintenance. Potential to integrate approach with Green Infrastructure Strategy. Map of land being managed for pollinators being produced with council's GIS specialist.
	Switch to green tariff for Council-purchased electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial enquiries made. Response from LASER received with potential costs - likely to be small increase in cost for electricity. Awaiting response from LASER as to whether lead-in time is necessary, (it is possible we may have to wait until next financial year) and impact on energy emissions.
Stage 3: Longer-term Actions	Work with contractors to move towards Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers are either required (in the specification) or encouraged (in the specification and tender) to do this, depending on what is proportional for the tender/contract.
	Reduce energy losses by retro-fit technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing stock condition survey being undertaken; result of this will determine potential for reducing energy losses.
	Examine installation of low emission heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on future decision on Civic Centre building complex and housing stock condition survey.
	Identify any suitable locations for solar photovoltaic (PV) panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of Civic Centre has shown the building would require strengthening in order to accommodate PV panels. Housing stock - review potential when results of stock condition survey published. Engineers have identified potential for other sites (e.g. grounds maintenance depots) but would need assessment of individual sites.
	Examine the business case for Vehicle-to-Grid EV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action to be looked at when fleet starts to switch to EV.
	Install water-saving technology within all commercial buildings within the Council portfolio.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Lead Specialist has identified possible potential - would need specialist in to assess whether projects could go forward.
	Explore the potential for rain water harvesting systems and treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above.

	Seek to incorporate carbon reduction requirements into new tender contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be incorporated into review of procurement process.
	Where possible contracted out service proposals include and deliver high levels of sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be incorporated into review of procurement process.
	Develop appropriate flood mitigation measures and tree planting schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Senior Specialist is currently finalising the tender for consultants to update the council's 2015 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). KCC working on Spatial Risk Assessment for Water for Kent (see presentation to Working Group, 9 September 2021) which can feed into the council's SFRA update.
	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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting details of proposed changes to the planning system. Tom Henderson from KCC also working on this through work being done on adaptation. To explore including recommendations for tree planting. Council is assessing whether to apply to become a pilot under the Government's Stage 2 – Design Codes Pilot which could explore how standards can be incorporated into the new planning system.
	Explore phased upgrade of the council fleet to hybrid (HEV) or full battery electric vehicles (BEV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise vehicles in fleet around Folkestone and Hythe. Also consider ensuring vehicles are multi-purpose and can be used across different services. Implementation is dependent on introduction of charging points and assessment of costs. Exploring potential for charging points at other locations apart from Civic Centre.
Stage 4: Offsetting Where Emissions Cannot be Reduced	Offsetting remaining carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be explored dependent on results of emissions reductions actions in Stages 1-3.

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