

# Carbon Innovation Lab Update

Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group  
7 September 2022

# Carbon Innovation Lab

Climate emergency declaration to: *“develop a strategy for Folkestone & Hythe District Council to play a leadership role in community, public and business partnerships for our Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment throughout the district”*

- Proposal put forward to Cabinet on 23 March 2022
  - Lab designed to be an informal and inclusive group of representatives from key groups from the community, business, education and other sectors
  - Council facilitating, rather than leading or directing
- Following approach adopted by London Borough of Hounslow
  - Three meetings held - June, July and September

# Outputs from Hounslow Carbon Lab

## Green Skills Academy

- Reskilling for the green economy
- Professionally recognised courses
- Green construction
- Heat pump installation
- Computer aided design

## Circular economy neighbourhood

- Skills improvement and job creation
- Tackle environmental problems (e.g. fly-tipping)
- Initiatives to reduce consumption, reuse and repair
- Boosting local economy - attracting repair / re-use company

## Other community initiatives

- Decarbonising community buildings
- Cleaning up waste land
- Planting wildflower meadow
- Local food market
- White goods / tool hire facility in community hall
- Digital classes

# Folkestone & Hythe Lab – main themes

## Meeting 1: 13 June 2022

- Improving council communications
- Exploring behavioural change
- Sustainable transport
- Improving people's participation

## Meeting 2: 18 July 2022

- Green Business Grant scheme
- District/county transport roles and responsibilities
- Kent Local Transport Plan 5
- Behavioural change – key concepts and approaches
- Draft outline of District-wide Carbon Plan for comment

## Meeting 3: 5 September 2022

- Update on Behavioural Insights project
  - Examples from Hounslow
- Discussion:
- Focus on significant areas for emissions
  - Set ambitions high
  - Crowd-source solutions

# Carbon Innovation Lab – next steps

To draft and consult on a District-wide Carbon Plan to set direction and provide framework for the delivery of projects

## Original intention:

- Draft chapters and share with the Lab
- Take draft to Working Group and Cabinet for wider consultation
- Public consultation, including representative survey of district population (as with Corporate Plan)
- Revisions
- Revised plan to Working Group and Cabinet for adoption

## Challenge from Lab:

- Set out broad principles early on
- Be less prescriptive
- ‘Crowd-source’ ideas at an early stage with wide audience
- Move away from traditional ‘council approach’

# Questions?