



Climate Action Plan and Engagement Update

Royal Borough of Kingston

March 2022



Foreword

I am pleased to present Kingston's updated Climate Action Plan.

In June 2019, Kingston Council declared a [Climate Emergency](#), with a commitment to deliver carbon neutrality in council operations by 2038. At that time, we committed to eliminating as many of the Council's emissions as possible, and offsetting emissions where we could not reduce any further. Since then, teams across the council have come together to develop our plans and to begin to deliver carbon reduction for Kingston, and in September 2021, I shared a draft plan with the Place Committee, with a commitment to ask our communities for their views on the actions we had set out. In response to this request, community groups came together to feed back their thoughts, and over 200 responses were submitted online.



Our residents and stakeholders made it clear that, while you are interested in our work to improve council buildings and reduce carbon in operations, you were most interested in how you could make a difference, how you could work together to deliver this ambition for Kingston, and how actions would impact upon the residents and stakeholders of Kingston.

As a result of this feedback, we have made the decision to revise Kingston's carbon reduction targets. We will now aim to be carbon neutral in operations by the challenging target of 2030, and to widen our actions to help move our borough to carbon neutrality by 2038.

Addressing climate change is everyone's responsibility and it requires widespread support to make an impact. We have had success to date in terms of working closely with our local strategic partners, businesses, and community groups, as well as neighbouring boroughs, the Mayor of London and Central Government. We will enhance this focus and increasingly take a role as an influencer and facilitator for change in our borough. Wherever our powers or financial constraints make it difficult to go far enough, fast enough, we will lobby national government for further powers and finance.

We have made lots of progress and we have support from our community to move forward but there is much more to do. This action plan will continue to grow and develop, with delivery being led both by priority and funding availability. I will continue the Kingston Climate Conversation with residents and stakeholders as we move forward together to take collective action to protect our borough from the impacts of climate change.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Archer" with a horizontal line underneath.

Councillor Stephanie Archer, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainable Transport

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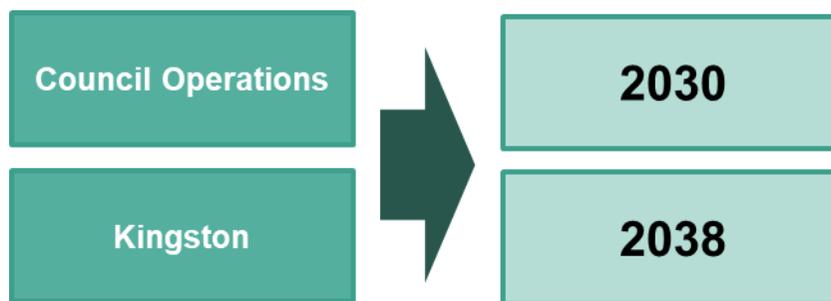
Introduction

There is a global consensus that climate change is happening.

Evidence makes it clear that there is a need for us all to take action to address both the causes of climate change and the impacts of these changes. In declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, Kingston Council committed to take decisive action to reduce carbon in all activity that we control.

In September 2021 we shared our draft Action Plan with residents to give them the opportunity to understand our initial plans and provide feedback. Through this feedback we saw that, although the Council's focus on carbon within our direct control was important, many residents wanted much more focus on the borough's carbon footprint and on action which could support them to make a difference.

We wish to harness this energy and enthusiasm, and in recognition of this we have reflected on the level of ambition for Kingston. We now wish to restate our **shared ambition** for carbon neutrality as follows:

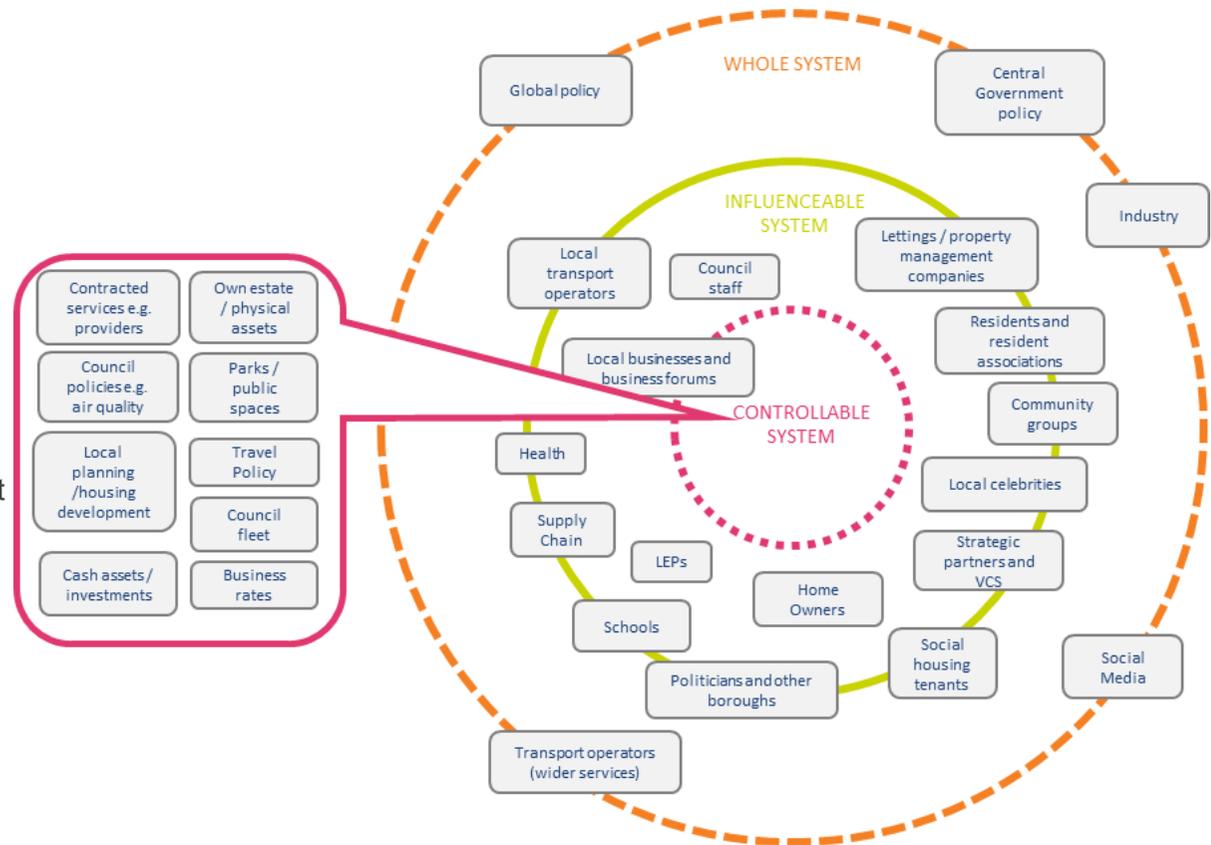


Addressing climate change is everyone's responsibility and we collectively have a role to play on the journey to 2030 and 2038. We know that we are not able to do this on our own but we do recognise the leadership role that we can take. While local authorities have limited direct control over total carbon emissions, they have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local area ¹. As such, communities are looking to local authorities to help generate pace and momentum, which will be absolutely vital to achieving this challenging shared ambition for Kingston .

This is a step change in terms of focus and will require us to identify new ways of working to enable the delivery of our ambition. A key aspect of this is around the role of the Council, expanding the focus from what we can control to what we can influence. We need to give consideration to the role of the wider community and businesses beyond the council's own operations.

¹ Energy Saving Trust (PNZ0061)

This visual aims to show how complex the system is and how only small parts of it are controllable by the Council. Much more is around how to work with other people and organisation to influence and effect changes in behaviour whilst recognising that some change is outside of our scope of influence and requires global and national policy change to have further impact:



We know that the revised ambition is challenging and that our ability to achieve this will be dependent upon many factors. However, we do not want that to constrain our level of ambition at this stage. We are committed to working together and trying to overcome the challenges ahead by seizing the opportunities together with our community to secure a Cleaner, Greener Kingston.

As we move forward our approach to governance and monitoring our impact will be key to help everyone to understand the progress that Kingston is making and to enable us to refine our plans to match our ambition. As we embark on this journey we will continue to adapt and respond to learning, thereby giving us the greatest chance of achieving our ambition of carbon neutrality.

Background

In 2018, the Royal Borough of Kingston developed its [Environmental Management Plan](#). This set out how green infrastructure and sustainable management is integrated in the built environment, and how communities will be enabled to deliver positive change in their local area. While that plan remains a key response for us, it does not go far enough to tackle the climate challenge. On 25 June 2019, Kingston declared a [Climate Emergency](#) and began putting in place actions to deliver against it. In November of that year, we published our [Climate Emergency Initial Assessment](#) which set out our current carbon management position and the actions we would begin to take to reduce carbon. Since this time we have been developing our understanding of the challenge, to clearly set out the steps we have to take to reduce carbon in Kingston.

The Council's Role

This presents an exciting opportunity for us to consider our role as a facilitator and an enabler for change. We have a key role to play as an influencer within Kingston, however, we cannot do this alone. More than ever, we need to work with the wider community and local businesses to encourage them to take a role in delivering impact.

We already know that there is lots of good activity happening outside of the council, with many active community groups. Part of our role will be helping to join up the positive activity already underway, signposting and helping our residents to understand what is already happening, along with helping them see a role for themselves. The engagement activity to date has provided a very clear steer in terms of the need to be creative in our approach to engagement.

Key principles of our refreshed approach:

- We can't deliver everything ourselves, but we can help and empower our community;
- We will work together with our partners and the community, engaging stakeholders in project delivery;
- We will identify "hard to reach" groups of people across the borough to ensure diversity of thought. We will need to reach those who may not traditionally be interested in climate change;
- We will accept that solutions will not always be acceptable to everyone and will require some bold decisions to be made;
- We can't do it all in one go. We will target those areas that will have the biggest impact first, and build confidence in delivery;
- We will reduce carbon emissions as far as we can and offset what we cannot remove;
- We will achieve carbon neutrality for council operations by 2030;
- We will prioritise green and decentralised energy;
- We will ensure the climate implications of our actions are a key factor in decision-making;
- We will be proactive about bringing funding into the borough;
- We will, in tandem, prepare to protect Kingston from the impacts of unavoidable changes in our weather;
- Leadership will be key – not only in setting the ambition but also in aiding it's delivery.

The co-benefits of climate action

Taking Climate Action will bring real positives for Kingston that are much wider than protecting our community from adverse weather impacts. A cleaner, greener Kingston is a healthier borough, with reduced NHS costs, better housing, better transport and a reduction in poverty and inequality. Some of the 'co-benefits' of taking action include:

Co-benefits	Co-benefits
✓ Quiet, safe streets	✓ Healthier, more active people
✓ Warmer, quieter homes	✓ A reduction in poverty and inequality
✓ Green jobs	✓ More local consumption with thriving local businesses and high streets
✓ Green spaces that are alive with biodiversity	✓ Better air quality
✓ Locally generated, secure energy	✓ Community engagement

Adaptation

While the priority of this plan is a reduction in local carbon emissions in order to limit the impact of warming global temperatures, we must also aim to help places, people, and nature be ready for unavoidable climate change (we call this [climate change adaptation](#)). This includes understanding risks and opportunities from climate change for business, infrastructure, housing, and the natural environment. There is a need to prepare services to deliver for the needs of the community as weather patterns change.

Therefore, adaptation measures cover many of the climate change themes, while promoting the need to provide secure and affordable energy, food, water, and transport, which enables the community to operate its businesses and services without impact on health and the economy. Adaptation actions are embedded throughout the relevant themes.

Engagement approach

In October we made our draft Climate Action Plan available via the Kingston Climate Conversation Hub on the Council's Let's Talk engagement portal. A summary of the key insights is shown below but the full engagement feedback summary and insights can be found in Annex 2 of this report:

- The invitation to join the Kingston climate conversation received 300+ contributions;
- Engagement was highest for themes most connected to day-to-day life, with travel receiving the most contributions, followed by efficient homes and waste reduction. Considering what people are most energised by and what they connect to most will help inform future engagement plans and approaches;
- For those engaged in the conversation, many thought Climate Action should be a priority for the Council;
- People engaged in the conversation shared a range of ideas to contribute to the plan and action on climate;
- There are some differing views on the role the Council should play, as well as recognition where others have a key role (from individual behaviours and lifestyles to government policy);
- Engaging communities in a new way will require a different role of the Council as a facilitator, bringing together and working with system partners, for example health, neighbouring authorities, businesses etc.
- This will also mean finding new ways to bring the climate conversation to life at a local level, explaining what climate change will mean for local communities and for individuals to help overcome barriers in participation of individuals, communities and businesses - from engaging in discussion to playing an active role in taking climate action.

Engagement - helping communities

People were asked how the Council could help communities understand the impact of climate change. Many of the responses focused on a different role for the Council, moving further into areas where we can influence change.

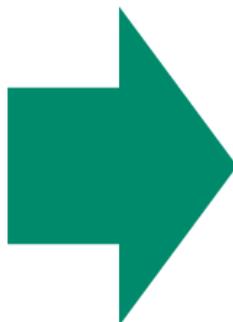
The engagement feedback has identified ideas for us to further develop our approach and build on our progress to date

“The Council should communicate in a far more effective way with its residents.”

“It feels too hard and remote. If it could be brought to life locally...it would feel like something we could achieve.”

“The climate conversation covers so many topics it is overwhelming, and makes people think they can't deal with it”

“Providing case studies Making it feel normal.”



- Creating **different** ways for local residents, communities and business to engage with the climate conversation going forward will be key.
- Consider how to capture the views of those **who wouldn't naturally engage** around climate change and the associated aspects of it
- Help to translate the **global** issue into a **local one** by highlighting the impact on local every day life.
- Individuals who engaged have highlighted that a **more accessible plan** was needed, with the current format inaccessible to many residents.
- Developing a plan that is **jargon free**, in plain English, alongside a summary version in community languages, an easy to read version and in different digital formats would help.
- This needs to be done alongside **other forms of engagement** and a way of making themes meaningful for individuals.
- Share **progress against plan** in a transparent way so that the community can understand what's happening.

Key next steps for engagement

We would like to thank everyone for their input to date. Moving forward there will be many more opportunities to be involved, not only in providing feedback and shaping plans but also in taking a role in their delivery. We know that we can't do this on our own and it will require significant community engagement, energy, and commitment for us to reach our ambition of a carbon neutral Kingston by 2038.

There are a number of key next steps including developing a detailed communication and engagement plan for the next 12-24 months and beyond. The need to be creative and try new approaches has come out strongly through the feedback we have gathered and this will be reflected in our planning. Getting this plan right is key to our collective success. We don't have all the answers so we welcome our communities' input on how we can do this in the most effective way.

The responses received to the recent further engagement on the Local Plan, which had climate as a key element of the conversation, is also relevant to the long-term ambition of this plan. A report capturing the feedback from the further engagement on the Local Plan will be available shortly.

A Kingston Climate Action website

The content will include:

- Information, advice and guidance
- Signposting and links to useful websites
- The promotion of initiatives that are already happening in Kingston
- Opportunities to get involved, volunteer, shape plans, feedback and make suggestions
- Updates on progress
- Links to community groups / organisations / green businesses

Developing our collaboration networks

To be successful, change behaviours and impact on our carbon emissions it is important that we collaborate with as broad a spectrum of people as possible. Diversity of thought will be a key enabler for us to realise our shared ambitions.

Who?		
Residents	Staff, partners and contractors	Voluntary sector
Businesses	Community groups	Visitors
People who work in Kingston	Environment groups	Councillors & MPs
Students (school, college, university)	Citizen's Assembly members	Strategic Partners
Young people not in education or employment	Health partners	

To collaborate with these identified groups and individuals we will:

- Develop an initial plan for each
- Raise awareness of what we are doing
- Link in with the community to ask for suggestions
- Target specific groups who will be able to offer a different perspective
- Utilise the website and Lets Talk portal
- Get out and about and meet people

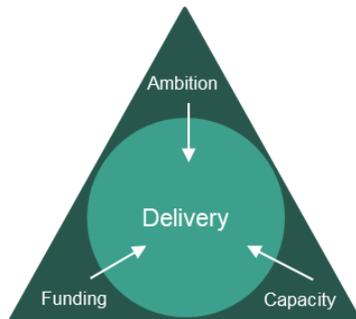
Over the life of this programme we will continue to re-prioritise actions, based on funding availability, technology, effectiveness and your views. We are looking forward to working together with our community to tackle climate change in our borough and identifying creative ways of approaching the challenge.

Financing action

The council faced several financial challenges in the medium to longer term - even before the COVID-19 outbreak, which has further added to these challenges. The economic and financial consequences of the pandemic, growing demand for services, and limited government grant funding make it difficult to find adequate funds to meet the borough's needs. Despite these challenges the council has a drive and commitment to ensure it is doing the best for residents and communities. We must maintain a focus on attracting green funding to the borough, like we have done successfully in the past, for example with our “Go Cycle” project. We aim to ensure that Kingston is “funding ready” and able to take advantage of grants and low-cost loan funding to enable us to take the action required to become carbon neutral. We will also review our own processes, such as collection and distribution of the Carbon Offset Fund to ensure that local carbon reduction activities are delivered.

The financial challenges associated with tackling Climate Change are not unique to Kingston. A recent report commissioned by the Mayor of London outlines an ambition for the whole of London to be carbon neutral by 2030. In that report there is reference to c£75b of funding required to meet that level of ambition and at this time that funding has not been identified or confirmed.

Funding will inevitably be a key enabler for our action plans. We will need to strike a balance between our level of ambition, capacity, and funding to ensure that we prioritise our delivery activity where we can achieve the greatest impact. As we move forward this will be a key consideration and will require regular review to ensure that we are accessing all available funds and progressing the right things at the right time. Some of the action plans will be wholly reliant on funding being made available and where funding is not made available we will recast our plan. Our plans are iterative and will continue to be responsive to change in the wider system.



A holistic view to our delivery plans will be key to ensure that we do not set ourselves up to fail by embarking on projects which we are unable to finance or resource.

Understanding the financial implications for the actions will be managed through the governance and reporting processes that will be implemented moving forward.

Governance

The size and scale of the climate change activity requires strong governance. However, this becomes more complex with multiple stakeholders and a broader role of influencing rather than controlling. The action plans are cross cutting with multiple owners and in some instances, no defined owners. This therefore will require a governance approach that is sufficiently flexible and acknowledges these challenges. The governance will need to:

- Drive ownership to ensure that there is shared accountability;
- Monitor and track progress against plan;
- Enable accurate reporting of progress against carbon reduction target;
- Enable escalation of identified risks at the appropriate level;
- Enable decision making and activities to move at the appropriate pace without unnecessary bottle-necks;
- Give transparent understanding of key interdependencies;
- Identify unintended consequences of action plans and enable a quick response to rectify/reflect.

Council governance

Internal governance is within our control, however it is still complex due to the cross-cutting nature of the climate change programme.

- Our plan is led by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainable Transport, in liaison with all of our Portfolio Holders, with oversight from our councillor Climate Emergency Champion.
- Through our internal steering group, we ensure that policy and major project decisions are made with Climate Action at the centre to facilitate long-term change. This group is chaired by the council's Executive Director for Corporate and Communities.
- Much of the delivery activity sits within the relevant service areas.

The key to our success will be taking a long-term view in everything that we do, making decisions that will benefit our borough in the present and the future.

We will publish an annual report to show the progress and development of the Climate Action response, using our 2017/18 baseline to benchmark carbon reduction. We will ensure that the costs associated with the delivery of this plan inform the council's budget setting process and our ask of partners.

Place-based governance

Place based governance requires a different approach as this is not totally within our control. The approach to this needs to be worked through, with engagement from the community, key businesses, and relevant partners.

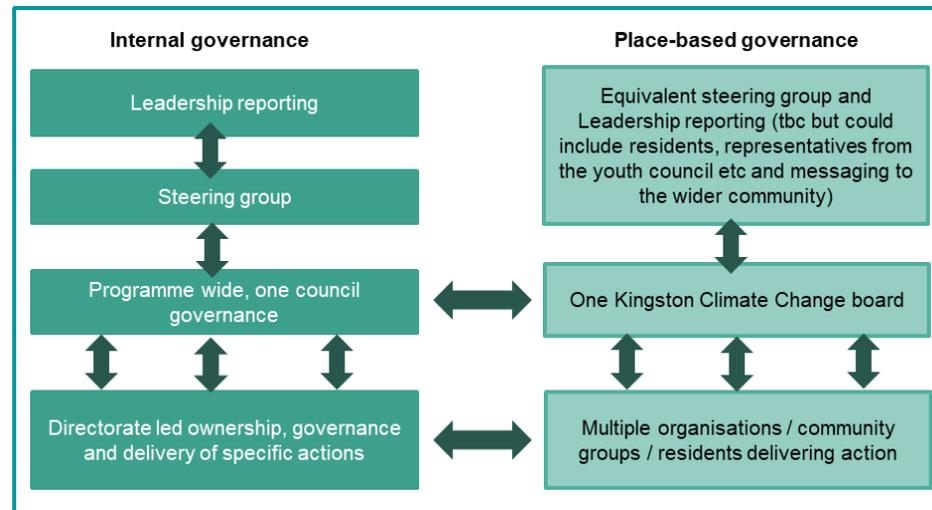
Some other local authorities have implemented a board – for example The One Kingston Climate Change Board (this name is not confirmed and is just a suggestion at this stage) which has representatives from a variety of stakeholders. This board takes ownership and accountability for the delivery of the place-based actions and is a forum for sharing and problem solving. This approach reinforces that it is not the responsibility of the council to deliver the climate change ambition.

Terms of reference will require co production with our partners – agreeing the appropriate chair, regularity of meetings etc. A balance is needed to drive momentum but to not put too much pressure on the different board members. It is important that we have broad representation on the board so that it is able to influence different stakeholders in the community and share their learning and insight. A key next step will be considering how to share the opportunity to get involved across the borough.

We have successfully taken a similar approach with our Transition to Green Economy group and we will take learning from this group as we move forward and refine our approach.

This diagram is for **illustrative purposes** only and the detail and exact approach is to be developed and worked through. This will include co-producing with our partners and community.

This seeks to show how the 2 governance models, although different, can interact and share information. Enabling appropriate flow and shared learning across the whole programme.



Kingston's updated Climate Action response

Following engagement feedback, we have refined the themes for action. The refined themes now more clearly differentiate between the focus required for the council and then the wider place. The Sustainable Council theme contains all actions related to the council, the remaining themes are in relation to Kingston as a place and the associated actions.



Theme 1: Efficient Homes and Buildings



Our Efficient Homes and Buildings aim is to design, deliver and encourage energy efficient properties across the borough.

There are multiple ways that we can start to tackle this – from planning and development of new properties through to improving the efficiency of current buildings, sharing information, and raising awareness. A critical aspect of this will be working together with the wider community to achieve our ambitions.

Lots of initiatives are already in progress with more due to begin shortly. A number of actions include developing strategies, approaches and options which will require strategic decision making and this will impact on delivery timelines. Additionally, many of the actions within this plan will require significant funding which will be a key consideration moving forward.

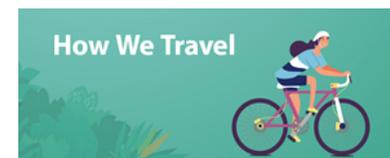
The actions in this section focus on:

- Service offer and infrastructure
- Ensuring sustainable development for future homes and buildings
- Retrofit and improving energy efficiency in current properties
- Supporting our community

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start date	End/ review date
Service offer and infrastructure	1.1	Explore options to invest and enable the growth of the renewable energy sector in Kingston	Assistant Director of Regeneration & Economic Recovery	2022	March 2025
	1.2	Explore options to invest in a low carbon local district heating network supplying effluent sourced waste water heat from the Hogsmill water treatment plant.	Assistant Director of Regeneration & Economic Recovery	2022	March 2025
	1.3	Develop an energy strategy and masterplan for the borough focusing on increasing renewable and low carbon energy	Corporate Heads Property / Strategy and Engagement	2022	Sept 2023
Ensuring sustainable development	1.4	Ensure new homes delivered meeting the London plan threshold are net zero carbon.	New homes and housing lead	April 2024	2030
	1.5	Exceed where practical London plan requirements to ensure sustainable and energy efficient development, rather than using carbon offsetting as the primary policy lever.	Head of Development Management	April 2022	2030
	1.6	All developments funded through the 2021-26 Affordable Homes Programme must consider how they will reduce the potential for internal overheating so that they are future proofed against expected changes in weather conditions.	New homes and housing lead	April 2022	March 2026

	1.7	No new council-led housing schemes will be designed with gas boilers.	New homes and housing lead	2022	2030
	1.8	Explore the opportunity to promote the use of the Future Homes Standard or equivalent best practice to achieve high quality new homes in the borough and develop recommendations	Head of Development Management	2022	March 2023
	1.9	Following construction of new homes and buildings, complete “post-occupancy monitoring” to ensure that developers maintain the required standards.	Head of Development Management	2023	March 2024
	1.10	Through the planning application process, ensure developments meet national construction carbon reduction targets, with the aim to ensure carbon emissions and wider air and environmental impacts from construction are minimised, reporting annually on compliance.	Head of Development Management	2022	2030
	1.11	Ensure broader engagement with planning applicants to ensure Sustainable Drainage Systems are being incorporated, where feasible, within proposed developments, and that surface water runoff is being restricted to a rate as close to the greenfield runoff rate as possible.	Head of Development Management	2022	2030
Retrofit and improving energy efficiency	1.12	Council Housing Improvement Programme - a works programme will be developed to target and improve council homes with low energy performance ratings.	Strategic Housing Asset Lead	2022	Ongoing
	1.13	Enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) Regulations to ensure that private rental residents are in properties which have an Energy Performance Certificate of E and above	Group Manager Regulatory Services	2022	March 2025
Supporting our community	1.14	The council will run the Warm Homes Better Health programme annually. [This scheme offers advice and practical help to our older residents, those with certain health conditions and those on lower incomes around steps to reduce energy use and therefore energy bills]	Corporate Head of Healthcare and Insight	In progress	April 2023
	1.15	Work with our housing association partners and other housing providers to share knowledge and embed a carbon neutral approach across all social housing.	Corporate Head Strategy and Engagement	2022	Ongoing
	1.16	Create accurate mapping of fuel poor households against poor energy efficient homes to target funding which can improve the energy efficiency of homes for those where improvements could see the biggest benefits.	Corporate Head Strategy and Engagement	2022	Sept 2023

Theme 2: How we travel



Travel impacts all of us and so it's really important that the borough works collectively to move towards more sustainable transport methods wherever we can. We will encourage pedestrians and cyclists and promote sustainable travel for our residents, businesses and visitors, while freeing up space on our congested roads for people who really need to use cars with lower emissions.

The average daily flow of vehicles through our borough is significantly higher than the England average. While we are working hard to promote other modes of transport, for those who need to drive we are keen to promote greener driving to reduce congestion and emissions and make our streets healthier, more enjoyable places to be.

Lots of the actions within this plan are already underway and it is important to note that financial investment and detailed planning will be required. Changes to the infrastructure, working across partnerships and encouraging changes in behaviour all take time.

The actions in this section focus on:

- Service offer and infrastructure
- Reduce emissions and pollution from vehicles
- Sustainable travel
- Partnerships and communities

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start date	End/review date
Service offer and infrastructure	2.1	Procure a new public car club contract in 2022/23 and work with car club(s) to convert their fleets to EV by 2026.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	March 2023
	2.2	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy - Identify funding to install rapid chargers to help enable the take up of electric taxis, cabs and commercial vehicles, working in partnership with others such as Transport for London where possible.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025
	2.3	Assess the feasibility of further Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and other measures that achieve similar outcomes - implementing where they are deemed appropriate.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025
	2.4	Complete Kingston's Go Cycle programme to deliver traffic-free cycle routes and a range of complementary measures to get people cycling, reduce congestion and emissions and increase levels of physical activity.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025

	2.5	Carry out a study to assess the feasibility of implementing Kingston's first Zero Emissions Zone.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Sept 2022	Sept 2023
	2.6	Assess and report the feasibility of implementing Low Emission Neighbourhoods as proposed by Transport for London's Transport Emission Road Map.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Sept 2022	Sept 2023
	2.7	Continue to implement School Streets in a rolling programme of 3-4 per year	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025
	2.8	Progress local permit parking schemes to deter commuter parking.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	April 2022	2025
	2.9	Explore the feasibility of introducing a workplace parking levy and report back with a recommendation.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	Dec 2022
	2.10	Make recommendations on how Kingston could implement a new parking pricing strategy that incentivises the use of less polluting vehicles	Programme Director, Corporate and Communities	July 2022	July 2023
	2.11	Include electric vehicle charging infrastructure in all new developments inline with the London Plan requirement.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	March 2023	2030
Reduce emissions and pollution from vehicles	2.12	Discourage idling through the use of suitable penalties and engagement	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2030
	2.13	Reduce parking in accessible destinations and restrict parking on congested high streets and busy roads to improve bus journey times, cycling experience, and reduce emissions caused by congested traffic.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	2022	2030
	2.14	Set up 4 regular Very Important Pedestrian Days (e.g. no vehicles on certain roads on a Sunday) by 2024.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	2023	2024
Sustainable travel	2.15	Implement a public e-bike hire scheme in the borough.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Trial to begin Summer 2022	Review 2023
	2.16	Provide cycle training for children, families and businesses to a minimum of pre-pandemic levels (2000 children and 325 adults per annum)	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025

Partnerships and community	2.17	Work with neighbouring boroughs to ensure that sustainable travel networks link up across the region. Lobby for an increase in services and work with our residents to develop proposals.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2030
	2.18	Maintain a robust Public Health approach to Active Travel	Corporate Head Health Behaviour & Public Health Services	Started	2030
	2.19	Work with our schools to reduce travel by car by encouraging them to join the Transport for London STARS travel planning programme, and work more closely with schools to improve the quality of School Travel Plans: [STARS is TfL's accreditation scheme that inspires young Londoners to travel to school sustainably, actively and responsibly by championing walking, scooting and cycling]	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025
	2.20	Liaise with South West London boroughs not covered by the London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) regarding the potential for a south London ULEZ.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2023
	2.21	Implement a schools outreach programme to raise awareness of the impacts of air pollution and help them to create clean air route plans.	Group Manager Regulatory Services	2022	2024
	2.22	Lobby Transport for London and South Western Railways for changes to the zones system for the Kingston area. [This would include continuing discussions with Transport for London to make Surbiton and Kingston zone 5 resulting in cheaper fares]	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Started	2025
	2.23	Work with non-Transport for London bus providers that use Kingston's roads to promote the use of low and zero emission buses.	Corporate Head of Service - Highways and Transport	Sept 2022	2023
	2.24	Engage with businesses to encourage travel choices that produce less emissions, such as Electric Vehicles and e-Cargo bikes.	CH Employment Skills & Enterprise	Started	2030

Theme 3: Natural Environment



Our target centres on reducing carbon emissions in Kingston. However, we are committed to delivering against **both** the climate emergency **and** the ecological emergency. It is important to have a theme focusing on protecting our natural environment for future generations.

We will support, develop and empower community activity to increase nature conservation projects, develop further tree planting and rewilding schemes and deliver a new biodiversity action plan through the biodiversity partnership. We will also implement planning guidance to enhance biodiversity in new developments.

A number of these actions include developing strategies and monitoring performance. This will directly inform further actions for this plan, along with the coproduction activity with our partners and communities.

The actions in this section focus on:

- Our service offer and approach to delivery
- How we aim to protect and enhance our natural environment
- Ensuring sustainable development through appropriate planning
- Working together with our partnerships and communities

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start date	End/review date
Service offer and delivery	3.1	Develop guidance and a validation checklist for Council planners and developers to use in order to adopt the “mitigation hierarchy” and ensure requirements of the new Environment Bill are met by developers in Kingston to meet Biodiversity Net Gain standards.	Head of Development Management	2022	2025
	3.2	Regularly update records of Tree Preservation Orders to ensure that all relevant and new information is captured and used in decision making processes	Head of Development Management	Started	2025
	3.3	Identify the current value of the natural environment to establish a baseline against which improvements can be measured over time	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	December 2022

	3.4	Adopt alternative management strategies which work to maximise the biodiversity potential of the public realm across the borough for example: further development of the Pollinator Parks strategy which focuses on the borough's parks as well as the BioBed strategy which encourages planning for pollinators.	Corporate Head of Contracts	Started	2030
	3.5	Reduce the amount of chemicals used to treat weeds while assessing the costs, benefits and the practical application of chemical-free weed control in Kingston.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	November 2022
	3.6	Complete an allotment review to inform future support and investment in existing provision to promote positive use of the sites and increase capacity where applicable to enable community food growing opportunities	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	March 2023
	3.7	Assess the impact of increasing the local Biodiversity Net Gain requirement through a viability testing process to understand how the extra costs associated with a higher target might affect housing delivery and report back with a recommendation	Head of Development Management	2022	March 2023
	3.8	Adopt a new Green Spaces Strategy to integrate management practices that mitigate and minimise the impacts of climate change, including tree planting, carbon capture drainage schemes and promotion of active travel	Programme Director, Corporate and Communities	April 2022	April 2023
	3.9	Establish a cross directorate Council working group to ensure early oversight of projects and proposals that provide either opportunity or risk to delivery of biodiversity enhancement	Programme Director, Corporate and Communities	2022	2025
	3.10	Review the capacity within the planning team to meet the demands of the incoming Environment Bill and resource as appropriate	Programme Director, Corporate and Communities	2022	Sept 2022
Protect and enhance	3.11	Improve the quality of our water and wetlands by working with partner organisations to improve management and maintenance of existing water bodies and seek opportunities to create new wetland areas in conjunction with sustainable urban drainage schemes.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	2030
	3.12	Protect habitats by establishing a Kingston Biodiversity Partnership who will support the development and delivery of a Biodiversity Action Plan.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	2025
	3.13	Adopt a new Tree Strategy. This will include (but is not limited to) the commitment to continue to plant and maintain an additional 500 trees per year. Focus will be on using suitable species to maximise chance of survival, reduce water runoff and	Corporate Head of Contracts	April 2023	April 2023

		support local biodiversity. Report on performance will be completed annually			
	3.14	Develop and implement conservation management plans for nature reserves across the borough, and where possible integrate rewilding principles and nature based solutions to climate change.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	2030
	3.15	Develop wetland capacity to increase flood resilience and biodiversity within the public realm, focussing on our parks and nature reserves	Corporate Head of Contracts	In progress	2025
Ensuring sustainable development	3.16	Deliver the Urban Greening Factor requirement for relevant developments in line with London Plan, ensuring that maintenance plans for green infrastructure are secured by planning condition.	Head of Development Management	In progress	2030
	3.17	Establish new allotment provision and community food growing areas through the Local Plan policies and processes as sites are developed.	Head of Development Management	2022	March 2024
	3.18	Integrate blue green infrastructure features such as rain gardens and trees into key developments and public realm projects	High Street Recovery Programme Lead	2022	2030
Partnerships and communities	3.19	Work together with local businesses, residents, schools and the wider community to develop a carbon sequestration project to look at where and how we can offset our carbon footprint more locally,	Corporate Head Strategy and Engagement	2022	August 2023
	3.20	Support and invest in food growing pilots by providing technical and financial support to selected projects, to develop and test good practice models which others can follow.	Corporate Head of Contracts	In progress	2025
	3.21	Work with key partners and landowners to increase the quality and accessibility of green spaces which are outside of the Council's direct management	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	2030

Theme 4: Waste Reduction



We are proud of the recycling rates in Kingston - in 2021 our rate was 47.6%. However, good recycling rates only tell part of the story. We aspire to be a borough that takes more responsibility, reusing and borrowing rather than buying and disposing.

We continually encourage residents and businesses to limit their impact on the environment by reducing the amount of waste they produce, reusing items where possible and making the most of recycling services.

We are working with the South London Waste Partnership boroughs to set a strategy for all waste and recycling services from contract break points in 2025. As decisions are made in relation to this activity the expectation is that more actions will be captured as part of the evolving plan moving forward, with carbon reduction as a focus.

The actions in this section focus on:

- How we can continue to develop our service offer and infrastructure
- Opportunities to encourage increased recycling
- New initiatives and ideas around how we can all work together to do things differently to reduce waste

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start date	End/ review date
Service offer and infrastructure	4.1	Work with our waste partners and suppliers to develop and implement a Carbon Management Plan which is focussed on reducing emissions.	Corporate Head of Contracts	In progress	2025
	4.2	Work with the South London Waste Partnership to develop a comprehensive recycling service offer to businesses and schools.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2023	March 2024
	4.3	Carry out a feasibility study to provide options for the future of Kingston's waste site that will enable greater recycling and reuse of materials locally whilst also ensuring the impact on the local environment is improved.	Programme Director, Corporate and Communities	In progress	May 2023
	4.4	Deliver improvements to Kingston's waste facilities to enable greater recycling and reuse of materials locally whilst also ensuring the impact on the local environment is improved.	Programme Director, Corporate and Communities	2023	2028

	4.5	Continue to develop our recycling services and where possible increase the range of items which can be managed through the service. This will be achieved through an annual review into the cost and associated options.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022 & annually	2025
Recycling	4.6	Work with residents to increase recycling rates through targeted communications and refinement of operations to help overcome identified challenges, with an annual plan and service review	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022 & annually	2025
	4.7	Recycling on the go: Continue to test and develop opportunities to separate items for recycling from general litter while they are out and about in the borough	Corporate Head of Contracts	2022	2024
Doing things differently	4.8	Develop a plan to encourage the use of reusable products. Initially including, but not limited to, nappies and wipes, to reduce disposal of single use products.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2023	2023
	4.9	Work with residents and the community to encourage and promote home and community composting 'Let's Get Kingston Composting'	Corporate Head of Contracts	2023	2025
	4.10	Promote, encourage, and enable a community sharing, repair and reuse culture, with initiatives to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption. This will include a focus on food, plastics and textiles along with other identified opportunities.	Corporate Head of Contracts	2023	2030

Theme 5: Sustainable Council



Our estate is our biggest direct source of emissions, through the energy we draw from the grid, combustion of fossil fuel to provide heat and through maintenance activities. Our core estate produces the equivalent of a kilogram of CO2 every 2.5 seconds of the working day and would take some 150,000 trees to offset. Our approach to decarbonising our estate is by reducing consumption first, then electrifying assets, removing any need to burn fossil fuels, then ensuring that electricity we do buy, is green and renewable.

Property is a long-term asset, meaning sustainable, long-term decision making is key. We also have some unique assets, ranging from protected, grade II listed buildings like Ancient Market Place, to care homes, public conveniences and everything in between. One size doesn't fit all, and a unique approach will be taken for each asset.

In order to achieve our wider target, we have to drive energy efficiency and carbon reduction through all council business. This will involve changing how we commission services to influence our supply chain, changing how we invest to influence the financial markets and changing how we work, day to day, as employees of the Council. We have already taken many large actions in this area since declaration, but there is more to do.

A key element of the actions is in relation to strategy and policy. It's important that these are defined and applied consistently. The detail of those policies will impact on the next set of actions and associated timelines. It is then important to monitor and report against policies so that we are able to hold ourselves to account and track progress.

The actions in this section focus on:

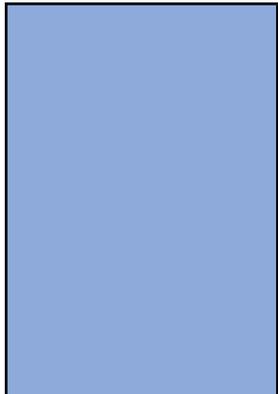
- Strategy, policy and reporting
- Facilities and energy management
- Operational activity
- Working together

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start Date	End/review date
Strategy, Policy & Reporting	5.1	Evaluate the Council's buildings to create and cost a delivery plan to reduce energy consumption, adopt low carbon technologies (heat pumps and district heating networks) and increase renewable energy generation.	Corporate Head of Property	2022	2024
	5.2	Identification for immediate action on buildings with minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES) below D and targeting an EPC B standard.	Corporate Head of Property	2022	2023

5.3	Bring the estate to carbon neutrality, by the target of 2030	Corporate Head of Property	Started	2030	
5.4	Develop a set of guidelines on sustainable design, procurement, construction and refurbishment standards for work the Council carries out on new or existing corporate buildings, maximising opportunities for carbon reduction. Include guidance on how the Council ensures embodied carbon is taken into account when making decisions, promoting whole life carbon analysis for new assets.	Corporate Head of Property	Sept 2022	2024	
5.5	Develop a policy to consider the future impacts of climate change in the design of Council buildings, including ensuring they are resilient to overheating, flood risk and water and energy shortage	Corporate Head of Property	Sept 2022	April 2024	
5.6	All new council owned developments with parking will include electric vehicle charging points.	Corporate Head of Property	Sept 2022	Ongoing	
5.7	Increase the availability of vegan and vegetarian options at all council events where catering is provided.	Corporate Head of Property	In progress	December 2022	
5.8	Update the commissioning framework to enhance environmental protection while not increasing barriers to local and small and medium-sized enterprises providers.	Corporate Head of Commissioning	In progress	December 2022	
5.9	Update procurement documentation to include a requirement for suppliers with fleet to have attained silver FORS accreditation	Corporate Head of Commissioning	April 2022	March 2023	
5.10	Regularly review the council's commissioning and major project plans to identify projects with significant carbon opportunities and impacts and support these to develop a carbon reduction plan	Corporate Head of Commissioning	April 2022	Ongoing	
5.11	Monitor the impact of our new responsible investment strategy.	Corporate Head Financial Planning & Business Partnering	April 2022	Ongoing	
5.12	Monitor and report on flooding and other climate related incidents on Kingston's roads	General Manager Highways & Transport	April 2022	Ongoing	

	5.13	Embed climate related risks into the corporate risk register and ensure they are labelled as Climate related risks	Corporate Head Strategy & Engagement	April 2022	Sept 2022
	5.14	The Council will specifically consider climate impact in every core strategy	Corporate Head Strategy & Engagement	April 2022	Ongoing
	5.15	Put climate considerations at the centre of our Future Workplace programme, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting digital first • Using team charters to develop and monitor approaches • Promoting home working and sustainable transport options • Ensuring secure cycle storage at future workplaces 	Future workplace programme director	April 2022	April 2023
	5.16	Set out a strategy to promote contract managers monitoring mileage and fuel consumption of vehicles used from the council's major contracts and report on actions being taken to improve efficiency.	Corporate Head Strategy & Engagement	July 2022	December 2022
	5.17	Develop a fleet strategy to move to zero emissions by 2028. Commit to swapping vehicles owned by the council and its service providers for zero emission versions, where they exist and are suitable, by 2028. Maximise the environmental credentials of any remaining petrol and diesel fleet in the meanwhile.	Programme Director Corporate & Communities	September 2022	September 2023
	5.18	Update the council's contract terms and conditions to strengthen focus on environmental performance, monitoring delivery through our social value driven commissioning approach already in place.	Corporate Head of Commissioning	Started	Dec 2022
	5.19	Ensure retrofit SuDS measures are considered as part of future highways schemes (as well as associated maintenance tasks), to ease the pressure on existing drainage systems.	General Manager Highways & Transport	April 2022	Ongoing
Facilities & energy management	5.20	Install automatic meter readers across the Council's buildings and facilities to improve data on how we use energy. If needed and feasible install submetering and Building Management Systems. All new buildings and major refurbishments to display real time consumption and generation in reception areas.	Corporate Head of Property	April 2022	March 2025

	5.21	Review how the Council buys and manages energy and water, to increase the proportion of low carbon sources, increase efficiency and implement recommendations	Corporate Head of Property	2023	April 2025
	5.22	Redesign the Council's approach to facilities management to ensure that all of the Council's buildings will be managed and maintained sustainably.	Corporate Head of Property	January 2022	Sept 2023
	5.23	Replace gas boilers in Council buildings with low or no carbon alternatives, using electric alternatives where we can. Increase the number of PV panels installations in corporate assets (including installations in schools) and work to support community installations.	Corporate Head of Property	April 2022	March 2023
	5.24	Ensure the council's operational buildings and facilities have full recycling services, including food waste, with clear communications in place to ensure they are well used.	Corporate Head of Property	April 2022	March 2023
	5.25	End the use of single use plastic in council operations where possible and encourage our suppliers and partners to do the same.	Corporate Heads of Property / Commissioning	April 2022	April 2023
Operational activity	5.26	Manage the highway routes to reduce the risk of flooding and maintain physical connectivity through the borough, and select highway surfacing resilient to extreme heat, cold and flooding.	General Manager Highways & Transport	In progress	Ongoing
	5.27	Deliver the programme to move to 100% LED Street Lighting by March 2023.	General Manager Highways & Transport	In progress	Mid 2023
	5.28	Continue to invest in digital solutions to move away from paper based solutions where possible to do so.	Business support manager	In progress	Ongoing
	5.29	Change the way we store data by moving to a 'cloud data centre' to reduce our storage and processing footprint.	Corporate Head of IT	April 2022	2025
	5.30	Deliver year on year investment in pool cars and bicycles for council staff.	General Manager Highways & Transport	In progress	Ongoing
Working together	5.31	Develop an effective Climate staff network in order to engage on a regular basis with RBK officers about climate action	Corporate Head Strategy & Engagement	In progress	Ongoing



5.32	Conduct a bi-annual review into the the jobs, skills, retraining and upskilling for all council staff needed to deliver an ambitious Climate Action Plan and develop a training programme to match this requirement	Head of HR/OD	September 2022	January 2023
5.33	Explore options for making climate competency a consideration in all staff appraisals and individual objective	Head of HR/OD	March 2023	March 2024
5.34	Further develop the borough's flood resilience plan with our partners and residents, promote the use of permeable surfaces in planning, and provide information and support to residents to assist them to introduce 'permeable' surfaces to allow soakaway. Review this bi-annually	Contingency Planning Manager	In progress	December 2022

Theme 6: Green Economy



A 'green economy' can be defined as one in which the economic value of protecting the environment is recognised and economic growth does not negatively affect the environment.

Our aim is to transition to a carbon neutral economy by supporting our businesses to grow while reducing their carbon footprint, as well as attracting new businesses to our Borough; and, facilitating our workforce to develop future-facing skills to enable full participation in the green economy. We are supporting this through a 'Transitioning to Green Economy' working group involving key stakeholders in the borough.

The actions in this section focus on:

- Strategy and operations
- Develop skills and innovation
- Raising awareness, information, and advice
- Working together and incentivisation

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start Date	End/review date
Strategy & operations	6.1	Encourage and support local businesses to join the 'Delivering London' pilot scheme - aiming to reduce congestion and the environmental impact on the Boroughs roads, whilst offering a better choice of parcel delivery	Assistant Director, Highways/ Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	In progress	2024
Develop skills and innovation	6.2	Utilise the Business, Innovation & Growth in South London Programme, the Kingston Innovation Network and relationships with existing and new partners to: - Stimulate innovation in green economy - Attract funding and investment in the green sectors - Promote green businesses	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	January 2021	2030
	6.3	Work with the partners of Kingston's Economic Recovery Task Force to support medium and small and medium enterprises to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon emissions, including related legal and tax advice.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	October 2020	2025
	6.4	Work with partners to create a business led Green Business Alliance to provide a forum of businesses and organisations that are committed to reducing their environmental impact and promoting sustainability in pursuit of environmental excellence.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	Autumn 2022	2025

	6.5	Work with our partners to develop, promote and deliver training and employability support programmes, which will focus on green skills.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	April 2022	March 2023
	6.6	Work with Kingston Adult Education and our partners, including South London Colleagues Group and Kingston University to develop and/or promote and/or deliver training programmes aiming to improve green skills of local Micro and SMEs.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	April 2022	March 2023
	6.7	Supporting the construction sector to move to a circular economy. Work in partnership with the South London Construction Academy to help expand and upskill the construction labour force and reduce unnecessary waste.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	2022	2025
	6.8	Initiate a local innovation fund to support business innovation and adaptation, incorporating a focus on green initiatives.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	May 2021	June 2022
Raising awareness, info & advice	6.9	Promote the Kingston Green Business Challenge pilot to provide an opportunity to businesses to show publicly their commitment to reduction of the negative impact of their activities on the environment and achieve their Green Mark Accreditation	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	Winter 2021	March 2023
	6.10	Deliver the 'Healthy and Green Workplaces' conference to ensure that Kingston businesses are aware of what actions they can take to promote carbon reduction.	Corporate Head Strategy and Engagement	April 2022	December 2023
	6.11	Work with regional partner local authorities to support small and medium-sized enterprises to address barriers to becoming more energy efficient and reducing their carbon footprint, e.g. through development of Business Audits and Environmental Accreditation schemes.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	October 2020	2030
Working together & incentivisation	6.12	Work with the Chamber of Commerce and other partners to incentivise businesses to reduce their emissions from travel e.g., by replacing fossil fuel vehicles with e-vans or cargo-bikes.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	January 2021	2030
	6.13	Support our local businesses and partners to diversify and localise the supply chain to reduce carbon emissions in operations	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	April 2022	March 2025
	6.14	Encourage local businesses and landlords to retrofit their premises, promote locally grants available from GLA and Central government; lobby GLA and Central Government to create initiatives to support M&SMEs to retrofit their premises.	Corporate Head Employment Skills and Enterprise	April 2022	March 2025

Theme 7: Everyone together



The climate challenge impacts on everyone in our borough and is a key concern for many of our residents. This has been clearly highlighted through our consultation activity completed in 2021, which incorporate engagement sessions and a feedback mechanism through our Lets Talk portal.

It is clear that this challenge can't be overcome if we work in isolation. It is critical therefore that we take a joined up approach and work together as a community to effect change. Responding to the feedback we have more clearly identified Everyone Together as a theme and the associated actions are captured below. It is important to note that this theme will be closely linked and aligned to our overall engagement approach and you can refer to **Appendix #** for more detail.

These actions are just the starting point. As we move forward the expectation is that these actions develop and evolve in response to ongoing feedback, suggestions and learning from both our community and beyond. Some engagement strategies will be more effective than others and we will seek to test new approaches, learn from them and co produce solutions and initiatives with our vibrant community. There is lots of activity happening beyond the council and it's important that those initiatives are recognised and celebrated.

The actions in this section focus on:

- Communications and engagement
- Partnerships and communities
- Raising awareness, information and advice

Group	Ref	Action	Owner	Start Date	End/review date
Comms and engagement	7.1	Work with our communities to develop and deliver an annual communications plan, coordinating priorities and campaigns and working with London Councils and National Government to ensure maximum impact	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	2022	2030
	7.2	Promote and support regional and national campaigns with concentrated activity in September	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	2022	2025

	7.3	Communicate and engage with residents and others about how to manage heat, cold and damp in buildings and the associated health benefits.	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	In progress	2030
	7.4	Implement communications and engagement activity around the natural environment including guidance on how people can support biodiversity through their homes and gardens, with a focus of activity for young people and families and groups less able to access green spaces	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	2022	2024
Partnerships and communities	7.5	Work with the Kingston Strategic Partnership to develop a roadmap to Carbon Neutrality for the partnership, considering the establishment of a Climate Action Partnership	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	2022	2024
	7.6	Empower the local community by facilitating the growth of volunteering opportunities through the creation of the Friends Forum which will support volunteer groups promoting their growth and resilience.	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	In progress	2030
	7.7	Work in Partnership with Kingston University and local schools to deliver a project to improve schools' environmental efficiency.	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	2022	2023
	7.8	Work with the Kingston and Richmond Youth Council to engage with our young people about the climate emergency, including through the delivery of a young people's climate network	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	2022	2023
	7.9	Ensure the council and its partners work together to implement health and weather national policies such as the Heatwave Plan and Cold weather plan - planning to protect health in cold weather.	Contingency Planning	2022	2023
Raising awareness, information and advice	7.10	The council will continue to lead the promotion of purchasing renewable energy for private homes.	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	In progress	2025
	7.11	The council will lead the promotion of solar panel installations on domestic properties and small and medium sized businesses through the Solar Together programme.	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	In progress	2023
	7.12	Run campaigns to ensure that households are signposted to opportunities available for funding sources and promoting good behaviour practises to achieve an efficient home with low running costs.	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	April 2022	2025

	7.13	Encourage reuse and sharing culture, promote sharing forums such as freecycle and encouraging community events such as 'give and take days'	Corporate Head, Strategy and Engagement	April 2022	2025
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Measuring and reporting

Many of the actions listed within the action plan are ongoing and they will progress over the coming years to make a significant contribution in the reduction of Kingston's carbon footprint or other aligned outcomes. It is important that these are effectively monitored and reported so that there is a good, shared understanding of the progress that is being made.

Inevitably, some initiatives over the course of the programme will be more successful than others. This can only be fully understood and responded to through effective monitoring. A transparent approach is key to building trust in the wider community – sharing successes and challenges at the appropriate time. Learning from our experience and applying that to new initiatives and action plans with the ability to track and monitor local carbon reduction.

We continue to develop and define our approach to measuring progress in all areas and a key element of this will be how we report against that through our governance processes. This becomes more complex with our enhanced focus on place-based actions.

We will develop a publicly accessible dashboard to measure progress against our carbon baseline, in order to prioritise and adapt our actions to meet our council and borough targets.

The Council's carbon baseline

The Council's own carbon footprint has been measured in order to create a baseline against which we will assess progress of our actions. This measures not just carbon dioxide but other emissions that contribute to climate change, known as greenhouse gases. Here this is expressed as tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (tCO₂e).

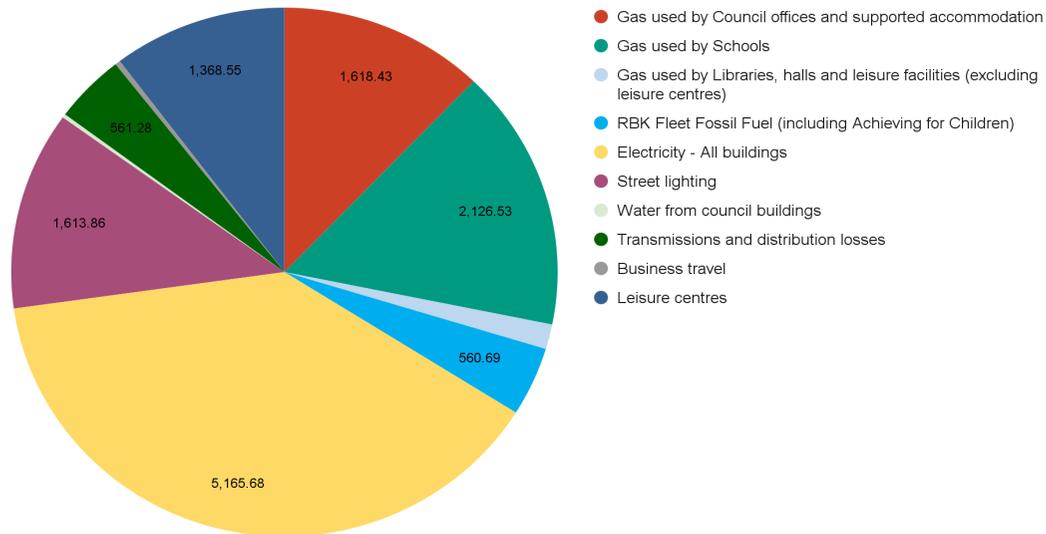
We chose the year 2017/18 as our baseline in discussion with other London Boroughs as this was before Covid-19 and before most boroughs had declared a climate emergency. This gives us a consistent year to measure progress against, using the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool².

²[The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#)

The chart below shows the Council's total greenhouse gas emissions for the baseline year of 2017/18, which is a total of 13,217 tCO₂e. The emissions cover the Council's consumption of energy (electricity, gas, transport fuel) and water from the buildings and vehicles the Council uses and pays for. In 2019/20, these emissions had reduced to 11,721 tCO₂e.

Council's Greenhouse Gas emissions Baseline (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents)

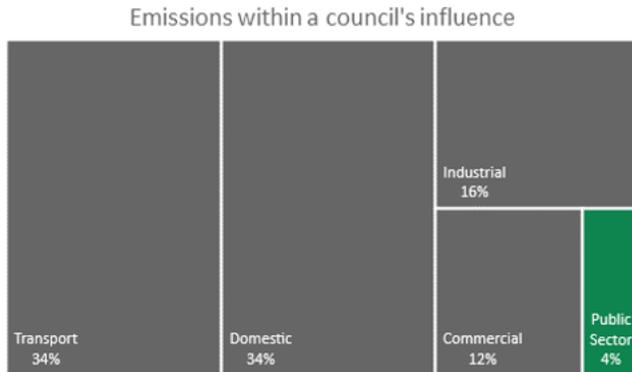
2017/18 Financial Year (tCO₂e) Scope 1, 2, and 3.



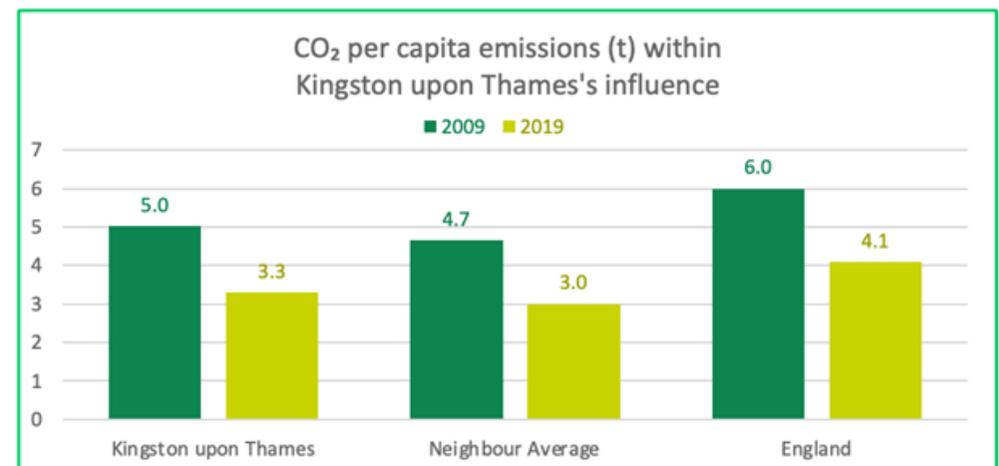
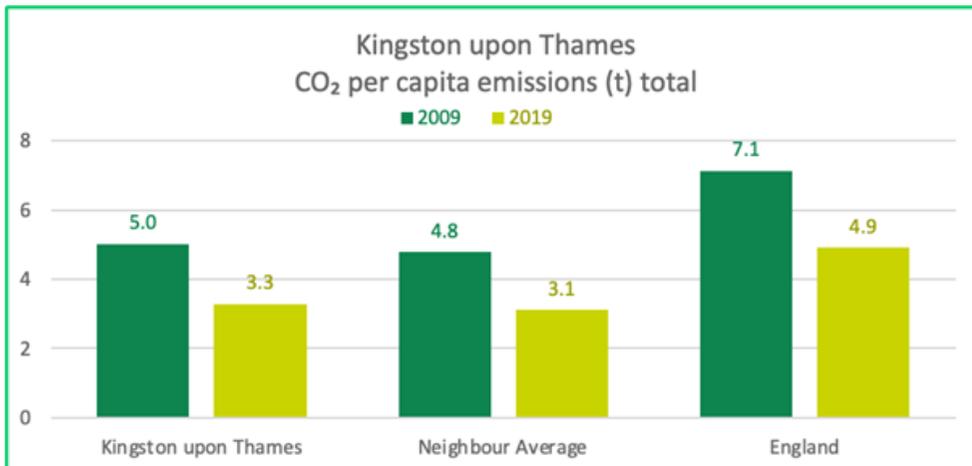
For more detail about our baseline, please see [appendix A](#).

Kingston Carbon emissions

A quick look at the data shows that focusing on council carbon emissions is only going to make a small dent in emission levels. Nationally, public sector emissions as a whole equate to only 4% of emissions that are within a council's control. An action plan focused on emissions from the transport and domestic sectors (i.e. those within a council's influence) therefore provides a much greater opportunity.

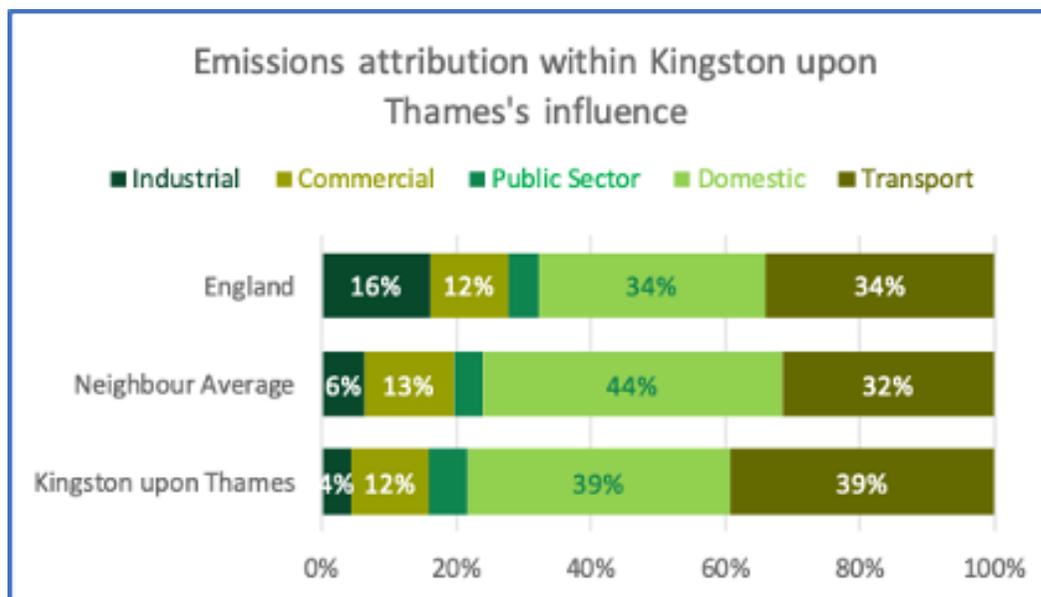


Using publicly available data (extracted from Business Energy and Industrial Strategy BEIS government website) we are able to understand at a high level the emissions for Kingston compared to our statistical neighbours and the national average. The graphs below show that Kingston is doing well in terms of reduction in carbon emissions; and performing better than the National average and slightly behind the comparator councils.

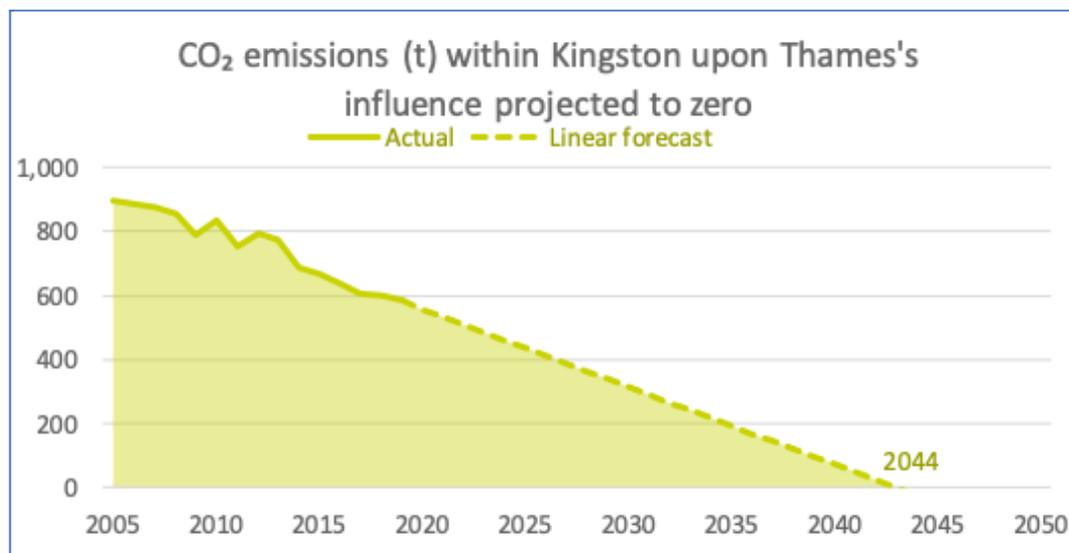


This is a good starting point but highlights the need to do more in order to achieve the ambition for the borough. There is the opportunity to learn from others in this space.

Analysing the sectors measured within this data shows that emissions generated by the Public Sector and land use are performing below average, when compared with our statistical neighbours. Additionally, when analysing the types of emissions generated within Kingston, the data tells us that 39% of emissions are generated by the domestic sector and 39% generated by the transport sector. 60% of emissions in Kingston are generated by businesses. The council is able to influence these emissions by working effectively across the whole community.



Using this publicly available data and projecting this forward, if Kingston continues to generate emissions at the levels seen between 2005 and 2019, we will reach net zero around 2044.



Next Steps

We are keen to accelerate our climate change programme and this strategic action plan update sets new targets of 2030 for council-generated emissions and 2038 for place-based emissions. Consideration needs to be made as to how the benefits of the existing activities included in our action plans will be realised and, indeed, escalated, in order to meet our revised ambition.

Our next annual report will provide far greater clarity and detail around the action plan activity and how it will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions. Moving forward, our activities to reduce carbon emissions will be more data led.

Appendices

Appendix A - Our Carbon Baseline methodology

The Council's carbon baseline has been measured using the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool³ developed by the Local Government Association and Local Partnerships. We can use this approach to look at progress against our baseline over time.

We will be developing our approach to energy management and data capture during the life of this action plan, and as we gather more data our baseline will continue to be updated.

We are using 2017/18 baseline data in order to be consistent with data collected by other London Boroughs and London Councils.

The total 13,216.67 tCO₂e is broken down by scope as follows:

SCOPE 1 Emissions : Emissions arising from the council's gas and fleet usage

Kingston Council's (RBK's) Scope 1 emissions are 4,507.27 tCO₂e in total. Scope 1 covers gas and fleet related emissions associated largely with the Council's main properties and operations. In terms of gas related emissions, this category includes all Council owned and operated buildings and facilities including educational facilities, such as adult education centres, car parks and other public parking, cemeteries and crematoria, leisure facilities operated directly by the Council, parks and greenspaces and residential care homes.

Also included in Scope 1 emissions are those Council maintained schools, specifically the ones which are purchasing gas from Kingston Council's main gas provider i.e. 34 schools using gas in 2017/18. However, the number of schools buying gas through the council's main provider will be reduced in the future and we may not be able to monitor their gas consumption in a collective way. Emissions from housing communal areas, void properties and hostels (temporary accommodation), which are purchasing gas from RBK's main provider are also included in Scope 1.

In terms of the RBK fleet use emissions covered by Scope 1 include fleet vehicles related to special educational needs and disabilities, adults minibus miles for Kingston only (no data for taxi services for service users or home visits from social care staff are included), housing-related vehicles and vehicles for grounds and tree maintenance.

There is no available data for Waste Collection Fleet Fossil Fuel use in 2017/18, however data will be available from 2019/20.

SCOPE 2 - Carbon that is emitted from electricity usage in council buildings and street lighting

³[The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool](#)

Kingston's Council's Scope 2 emissions are 6779.53 tCO₂e. Scope 2 covers carbon emitted from electricity usage in council buildings and street lighting. Based on available data for 2017/18, 82% of the electricity emissions are from council buildings including Adult Educational facilities, car parks, cemetery and crematorium, leisure facilities, parks, care homes, libraries, and community centres and halls. Also, it includes emissions from 34 schools, which purchase electricity from the RBKs main supplier, and communal areas, void properties and temporary accommodation. The remaining 18% of Scope 2 emissions come from street lighting electricity including illuminated bollards and signs.

SCOPE 3 - 'Upstream' and 'downstream' emissions from the delivery of council operations

Scope 3 emissions monitored in 2017/18 include:

- Emissions from water used in council buildings, including Adult Educational facilities, public parking, cemetery and crematorium, leisure facilities, greenspaces, care homes, libraries, community centres and halls and a number of schools. Emissions from water usage by schools and housing (communal areas, void properties and hostels) are not included.
- Carbon emissions resulting from energy lost through transmission and distribution from electricity used by the buildings
- Emissions from business travel of staff
- Emission from council leisure centres operated by third parties

Kingston's Scope 3 emissions, measured from available data were 2,001.44 tCO₂e . Emissions from waste from Council's buildings and schools, staff commuting, goods and services supplied, as well as capital goods (i.e. construction) are not included in the Scope 3 Emissions reported for 2017/18.

We have identified a need for more accurate information to measure all Scope 3 emissions and report them.

Appendix B - London and National responses

Climate Change

There is a global consensus that climate change is happening. In 2015 the first ever universal, legally binding global climate change agreement, known as the 2015 Paris Agreement, was adopted. This sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

National Framework

In 2019, in the [2050 Target Amendment](#), the UK Government committed by law to achieving net zero carbon by 2050. In order to achieve this, they put in place a series of measures including the '[Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution](#)', and the [Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future](#). In December 2020 the Climate Committee also set out [The Sixth Carbon Budget](#), which describes the path to net zero for the UK. The recommended pathway requires a 78% reduction in UK emissions between 1990 and 2035 through four steps:

- people and businesses to adopt low-carbon solutions (i.e. new cars and vans, boiler replacements in homes, buildings to be low-carbon, waste reduction and circular economy, renewable electricity or hydrogen);
- expansion of low-carbon energy supplies;
- reducing demand for carbon-intensive activities (e.g. insulation of buildings, change in diets, fewer car miles and air-travel);
- land and greenhouse gas removals (e.g. transformation of agriculture and restoration of peatlands).

The Sixth Carbon Budget report also stated that “more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place. Local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas.” We take that responsibility seriously and as such we will continue to deliver outside the scope of our target wherever we can, influencing our supply chains, changing how we invest and working with partners and local businesses to deliver a green economy.

London level Strategy and Governance

The Mayor of London recognising that London’s environment affects everyone who lives in and visits the city developed in 2017 the first [London Environment Strategy](#), which brought together approaches to every aspect of London’s environment, integrating the following areas: air quality; green infrastructure; climate change mitigation and energy; waste; adapting to climate change; ambient noise; and, low carbon circular economy. A set of strategies and initiatives have been developed in order to address the causes of climate change and ensure London can adapt to a changing climate. These include: Accelerate delivery of a cleaner, greener London through the [London Recovery Board](#) in the context of London’s long-term recovery from

the coronavirus crisis, with one of its missions to deliver a [Green New Deal](#) which seeks to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies and improve air quality by doubling the size of London's green economy by 2030 to accelerate job creation for all. This can be enforced through the [Good Work for All](#) mission, the [London Plan 2021](#) provides a planning framework for sustainable development, the [Energy for Londoners programme](#) aiming to make London's homes warm, healthy and affordable, workplaces more energy efficient and accelerate generation of local clean energy. At the same time, action is taken to [divest London's pension](#) funds from fossil fuel industries and scale up green investments by pension funds, while organisations across sectors are encouraged to follow.

London Councils have brought together its London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet) and Transport and Environment Committee to publish a [Joint Statement on Climate Change in 2019](#). This has resulted in 7 themes and associated targets that London Boroughs are signed up to, which are:

- #1 Retrofit London: Retrofit all domestic and non-domestic buildings to an average level of EPC B. Lead borough: LB Enfield and LB Waltham Forest
- #2 Low carbon development: Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning. Lead borough: LB Hackney
- #3 Low carbon transport: Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel via combined measures that can restrict polluting journeys and incentivise sustainable and active travel options. Lead borough: RB Kingston and City of Westminster
- #4 Renewable power for London: Secure 100% renewable energy for London's public sector now and in the future. Lead borough: LB Islington
- #5 Reduce consumption emissions: Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds, focusing on food, clothing, electronics and aviation. Lead borough: LB Harrow
- #6 Build the green economy: Develop London's low carbon sector and green our broader economy. Lead borough: LB Hounslow
- #7 Creating a resilient and green London. Lead borough: LB Southwark

In July 2021 LEDNet worked with a coalition of partners to produce a paper outlining why it is essential local authorities play a central role in the Government's Net Zero Strategy and how the Government can start to work with local authorities; ['Recognising local authorities as key partners in the Net Zero Strategy'](#), the [blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level](#)