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Agenda

Environment and Climate Change Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 18 March 2025
Time 7.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT

Membership:

Councillors Derek Carnell, Roger Clark, Alex Eyre, Carole Jackson, Rich Lehmann (Chair), Claire Martin, Charlie Miller, Pete Neal, Carrie Pollard, Ashley Shiel, Julien Speed, Paul Stephen, Sarah Stephen, Ashley Wise and Dolley Wooster (Vice-Chair).

Quorum = 5

Pages

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(d) Anyone unable to use the stairs should make themselves known during this agenda item.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 January 2025 (Minute Nos. 543 – 549) as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their families or friends.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) or disclosable non-pecuniary interests (DNPIs) to declare in respect of items on the agenda. Members with a DPI in an item must leave the room for that item and may not participate in the debate or vote.

Aside from disclosable interests, where a fair-minded and informed observer would think there was a real possibility that a Member might be biased or predetermined on an item, the Member should declare this and leave the room while that item is considered.

Members who are in any doubt about interests, bias or predetermination should contact the monitoring officer for advice prior to the meeting.

Issued on Monday, 10 March 2025

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Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT

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Environment and Climate Change Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	18/03/25
Report Title	Contract extension for the minor maintenance and cleansing of public conveniences.
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell
Lead Officer	Alister Andrews, Environment Services Manager
Classification	**Open**
Recommendations	1 To extend the existing public convenience cleansing and minor maintenance contract into the final year, ending on 31/03/26

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 The current minor maintenance and cleansing of public conveniences contract expires on 31st March 2025. The current contract has a one year extension clause. This paper recommends extending the contract into the final year to allow time for a full review of public conveniences to be completed and discussed by Members.

2 Background

2.1 In June 2023 the Environment Committee agreed to re-tender for a 1 + 1 year contract to start from 1st April 2024.

2.2 On 17th January 2024, Environment Committee recommended to award a contract for the cleansing and minor maintenance of public conveniences. The funding was agreed through the policy and resources committee.

2.3 The contract provides a service that opens and closes all of the public conveniences within the borough; cleans them to the appropriate standards; replenishes consumable items; and undertakes minor maintenance. Other more major repairs such as broken tiles, sinks, bowls or structural elements are reported to property services for repair via a separate property maintenance contract.

2.4 The contractor also undertakes routine deep cleans at each facility and toilets may be kept open later for special events.

2.5 The current list of public conveniences consists of:

- The Forum, Sittingbourne (attended – shared attendant with Central Avenue)
- Central Avenue, Sittingbourne (attended – shared attendant with The Forum).
- Rose Street, Sheerness (attended)
- Central car park, Faversham (attended)
- Leysdown Beach Services (attended seasonally)
- Minster Leas
- Park Road, Faversham
- Milton Regis High Street
- Queenborough Park, Queenborough
- Bartons Point, Isle of Sheppey
- The White House, Minster
- Oare Gunpowder Works Visitors Centre, Faversham
- The Spinney, Leysdown
- King George V Playing Field, Sittingbourne
- Milton Creek Country Park
- Beachfields, Sheerness

2.6 Performance from the existing contractor has been in line with the specification, with very few complaints regarding the service provided. Monitoring of the contract by Swale Council officers show very few concerns in contractor performance.

2.7 The public convenience cleansing and minor maintenance contract has been delivered by Monitor Cleaning Services Ltd since April 2017.

2.8 A project manager has been appointed to undertake a full review of public conveniences within the borough, ahead of deciding how the service will operate beyond March 2026. This will consider different operating models, usage, condition surveys and locations of other provision. This work is well underway and will be reported back to this committee later in the year.

3 Proposals

3.1 To approve an extension into the final year of the existing contract. If extended, the contract will expire on 31/03/26.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

4.1 Do not extend the contract and manage the service in-house. This is not recommended as the review is looking at all operating models and the data will inform future committee decisions.

4.2 Do not extend the contract and stop delivering the service. This is effectively a decision to close all public conveniences in Swale as they could not be managed sufficiently without the resources to do so.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The extension does not need public consultation as the service would remain the same under the extension.

5.2 The project reviewing the service is currently engaging with town and parish councils. Public consultation will follow once Members have discussed the original data of the review.

6. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Appointing a contractor that meets a good quality standard and provides good value for money contributes towards all the corporate priorities.
Financial, Resource and Property	This expenditure was approved by Members at full council on 19th February 2025. The value of the extension is estimated at £380,500. This is variable due to usage and one-off requests for extended opening times. The full review of public conveniences will determine usage and provide recommendations on assets and funding options for the future.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The procurement of a service provider was advertised in line with the contract legislation requirements. The Public Health Act 1936 gives Local Authorities a power to provide public toilets, but it does not impose a duty to do so.
Crime and Disorder	Some toilets are currently partially attended to ensure that facilities are kept up to the necessary standard, but also to deter crime and disorder. The risk of damage and anti-social behaviour may increase in unattended facilities. The opening and closing times are structured to avoid times of the day when anti-social behaviour is more prevalent. These can be altered accordingly to site specific issues.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The current service provider provided evidence of how they intend to reduce their impact on the environment through a variety of methods such as water usage reduction or by using more environmentally sensitive cleaning products. Bidders were scored accordingly prior to tender award.

Health and Wellbeing	The public convenience facilities operate in line with government guidance to ensure they remain safe. Such facilities are appreciated by members of the public and they have obvious health and well-being benefits.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The appropriate safeguarding requirements were identified in the specification of the tender and the contractor has to abide by these safeguarding levels.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Many of the perceived risks were identified and discussed at contract award. These included financial risks and the risk of increased vandalism. Part of the procurement process ensures that contractors are fully competent, particularly in the area of health and safety. The current service provider's competence is evidenced through their membership of CHAS contractors Health & Safety Assessment Scheme, and ROSPA (Royal society for the prevention of accidents) and ISO accreditations for ISO14001:2015 and ISO9001:2015
Equality and Diversity	All Swale Council public conveniences provide for a range of disabilities. Signage has supported the 'Not every disability is visible' campaign at all sites.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7. Appendices

None

8 Background Papers

1) The provision of minor maintenance and cleansing of public conveniences – procurement of new contract. (29th June 2023) https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/g3967/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2029-Jun-2023%2019.00%20Environment%20and%20Climate%20Change%20Committee.pdf?T=10

2) Procurement of minor maintenance and cleansing of public conveniences service (17th January 2024) https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=356&MId=3969&Ver=4

Environment & Climate Change Committee	
Meeting Date	18th March 2025
Report Title	Update on Motion to Change Shoreline Management Plan Policy – Eastchurch Cliffs
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment & Leisure
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles, Seafront & Engineering Manager
Classification	**Open**
Recommendations	1. Members are asked to note the contents of the report following the previous motion to change the Shoreline Management Plan Policy for Eastchurch and acknowledge the work that has been done and that we will now focus on engaging and supporting affected residents .

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update following the motion passed by Members in November 2020 to seek to change the current policy of the Shoreline Management Plan along the unprotected North Sheppey coastline.

2 Background

2.1 Following the motion previously passed by Members, officers have been actively pursuing a change to the current SMP policy through discussions with partners.

2.2 The Isle of Sheppey is covered by Shoreline Management Plan SMP10 (Isle of Grain to South Foreland) which was adopted in 2008 following a review of the original SMP for the North Kent Coast (Isle of Grain to Dover Harbour) 1996.

2.3 The section of undefended coastline between the eastern end of the defences at Minster Leas and Warden Bay, policy unit number 4a04 in the SMP, has a policy of “No Active Intervention”.

2.4 At Full Council in November 2020, Members passed the motion *“that in view of the climate change accelerating the rate of the erosion of the Sheppey cliffs, this Council wishes to change Government policy to prevent further unsustainable erosion, thereby protect the existing, expanding, and future population of Sheppey. Swale Borough Council undertakes to seek the removal of the government coastal policy of non-intervention, with its serious social and*

commercial implications, and replace that policy with a policy of protection of the coastline."

2.5 Following this motion, a letter was drafted on behalf of the Cabinet Member for the Environment, and sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, explaining the motion and requesting further discussion on the issue. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix I.

2.6 A response was subsequently received in February 2022, via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The response stated that the policy options in the Shoreline Management Plan were all adopted by the relevant operating authorities in the first half of 2008, and these included Swale Borough Council, which was involved in developing and adopting the SMP policy of No Active Intervention. A full copy of the response can be found in Appendix II.

2.7 The response went on to detail the process for pursuing a change to an SMP policy. To summarise, the process is a complex and technically challenging one, with no guarantee of a positive outcome. As well as receiving the response from DEFRA, officers have also undertaken significant research through the South East Coastal Group (made up of key organisations focussed on coastal management), the Environment Agency and Coastal Consultants, to gather information around the change process.

2.8 The conclusion is that, despite the best efforts to date, we are unable to deliver the previous motion. The policy was agreed as the most sustainable policy for a number of reasons, including

- the fact that the area is covered by a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI),
- the geological processes of land slips and erosion is a challenging combination to alleviate,
- that the sediment released from this cliff erosion is an important source of sediment for other areas along the coastline.
- funding for any defences is governed by HM Treasury. It has been made clear by the Environment Agency that even with a change to the current policy, there would be no guarantee that funding would be available for coast protection schemes, resulting in a policy which cannot be delivered.

2.9 Officers are currently working on future engagement plans to provide information and support to those residents who could be affected by future coastal erosion, and an update report will be provided to this Committee at a later date.

3 Proposals

3.1 Based on the information obtained around changing the SMP Policy, any challenge to the Policy would require clear and substantial scientific

evidence meeting specific criteria detailed by DEFRA, and despite the best efforts of officers to date this evidence has not been forthcoming, and the previous motion is therefore deemed undeliverable.

3.2 Members are asked to note the contents of the report following the previous motion to change the Shoreline Management Policy for Eastchurch and acknowledge the work that has been done and that we will now focus on engaging and supporting affected residents.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

4.1 An alternative option for pursuing a change to the SMP Policy is to consider employing the professional services of a suitably qualified Coastal Engineer to investigate and prepare scientific evidence supporting a change to the Policy in accordance with the specified criteria. Initial costs would be in the region of £60,000 to £100,000, and with very little likelihood that the required evidence would be forthcoming, and acknowledging that work to date has not been successful in bringing about a change to the policy as requested, this option is not recommended.

4.2 Another option would be for the Council to do nothing, ignoring the motion and not looking to engage with affected residents. This is not recommended as it ignores a democratic process and would ultimately lead to future events like that seen in May 2020 with a need for huge SBC resources in the emergency response process.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 Since the motion was passed by Members of Swale Borough Council to seek to change the current Shoreline Management Plan of “No Active Intervention”, officers have been consulting with both the previous and current Chair of the South East Coastal Group, and the Environment Agency’s Coastal Engineer for clarification of the process to be followed to change the policy.

5.2 In addition to this, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, informing of the motion from Members and requesting further discussions as to how to progress the policy change.

5.3 Whilst we have had engagement with a number of the residents in the immediate location of the previous cliff fall and the local Parish Council, there has not been widespread public consultation to date. With the sensitive and complex nature of this issue, it is imperative that a clear communication and engagement plan is in place, with suitable resource, prior to any future engagement. The Community Engagement Plan would come back to this committee for approval.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Environment - To provide a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable and enjoyable environment, and to prepare our borough for the challenges ahead
Financial, Resource and Property	To pursue the change to the current SMP policy, funding will need to be sourced to commission the services of a Coastal Engineer to undertake suitable studies and research for evidence submission to support the policy change. An initial estimate for this work is between £60k and £100k and this funding is not accounted for in our financial budget. In addition to this, internal resource will need to be committed to manage the change process and work with the various organisations and authorities involved in the process. Should the Borough Council be successful in bringing a change to the current SMP policy, funding would need to be secured to undertake any coastal defence works, from feasibility studies, through the design process, obtaining the consent of relevant organisations and delivering a scheme. SBC does not have capital funding to deliver the construction of a coastal defence scheme.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Swale Borough Council, as a Coastal Authority, has a number of roles and responsibilities. Under the Coast Protection Act 1949, we are the lead on coastal erosion risk management activities and should undertake works on sea flooding and coastal erosion where we are best placed to do so, under the Environment Agency's overview and approval. A previous report from specialist consultants, commissioned following the cliff collapse in May 2020, states that Coastal authorities will also lead and support Coastal Groups, produce Shoreline Management Plans where agreed by the Coastal Group, and work closely with the Environment Agency for best outcomes in managing flooding and coastal erosion risks. For us this is via officer presence at the South East Coastal Group. The Coast Protection Act 1949 also gives Local Authorities powers to protect land against coastal erosion and powers to control third party activities on the coast, such as the construction of private defences or preventing the removal of beach material. It gives Local Authorities permissive powers to undertake coastal protection works on their frontage, and general powers of maintenance and repair works, including serving notice on owners and occupiers of land on which defences are in place to undertake these maintenance works.

	Under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981, the Local Authority has powers to compulsory acquire land for the purposes of construction, alteration, improvement, repair, maintenance, demolition or removal, but these works must be for the purpose of protecting land from erosion and encroachment, and cannot be used for any other purpose. Provisions for compensation are included in the Act, but these only relate to disturbance of enjoyment of land as a result of these works, and compensation cannot be made under the powers of the Act for loss of land or property that occurs as a result of coastal erosion. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 does not have much significance in relation to coastal erosion, but under this Act there is a duty for all relevant authorities to share information and cooperate with each other. The Local Authority also has powers under this Act to designate any privately-owned assets which have a coastal erosion risk function, meaning that the owner could not alter, replace or remove the structure or feature without the consent of the Authority. This Act also makes the Environment Agency a relevant authority for the Coast Protection Act along with coast protection authorities, such as the Borough Council. This means the Environment Agency has discretionary powers when exercising its coastal functions which include carrying out emergency coast protection works in any area it thinks necessary. It can also direct a private landowner or occupier to undertake coast protection works where they have a historical obligation to maintain a defence and can compulsorily purchase land if ordered by the Minister for England. In summary, there is no legal right to coast protection, and coastal defences are only maintained and rebuilt using permissive powers under the Coast Protection Act. There is no centralised, legally binding mechanism which sets out the responsibilities of the Council in relation to emergencies such as the management or mitigation of landslides. Issues relating to landslide problems, including the consequence of dangerous buildings and structures, are dealt with under common law and the case law tells us that generally speaking the primary responsibility is with the landowner. The Housing Act 2004 Part 1 requires the Council to take enforcement action where homes are not safe. This can take the form of hazard awareness notices or prohibition notices or demolition order. Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2002 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 provides the statutory

	responsibility to prevent homelessness and provide assistance to people, threatened with or actually homeless. The Civil Contingences Act places duties on the Council as a Part 1 responsible authority. This places a duty on us to assess risks and make ensure appropriate plans are in place as well as responding during an emergency.
Crime and Disorder	None identified.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The area of Eastchurch Cliffs is included in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as designated by Natural England, and this will impact on the feasibility of any defence scheme being built. Extensive illegal dumping of material has also taken place at Eastchurch Gap and other locations around the Island, resulting in a multi-agency investigation, led by the Environment Agency, to resolve the situation. Due to the effects of erosion, material invariably washes up on our bathing beaches, in particular Minster Leas, which has resulted in an increase in complaints and an increased demand on limited resources.
Health and Wellbeing	The ongoing natural coastal erosion process will continue to impact on communities close to the unprotected coastline, and engagement with these communities to promote adaptation is essential. Clear and consistent messaging around predicted future erosion and the impacted properties will be paramount in achieving this engagement and promoting coastal adaptation.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	Some of the residents currently planning to remain in their properties until the natural erosion forces them to leave are classed as vulnerable, and it is imperative that clear and consistent regular conversations are maintained with these residents to ensure they are fully aware of the risks and their needs met.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Should the decision be made to continue to pursue the current motion to change the SMP policy, funding will need to be sourced to commission a Coastal Engineer, and whilst an initial estimated cost of between £60k and £100k has been included in this report, there is a financial risk that the investigations and work required to submit a suitable evidence-based report could extend beyond these costs. Should the Borough Council be successful in securing a change to the current policy, there would be an expectation from residents that a coastal protection scheme would be forthcoming, and with no guarantee of full or part funding from DEFRA and the Environment Agency this could result in a negative impact on the

	reputation of the Authority, who do not have the capital funding for such a project. If funding is secured for a scheme following the successful change to the current SMP policy, there is still the risk that consent may not be granted by relevant authorities to undertake the works, including Natural England who would need to grant consent for works to take place within the designated SSSI.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Letter to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Appendix II: Response from Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

8 Background Papers

None

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL
Making Swale a better place

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs,
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Please ask for:
Direct Line: 01795 417438
E-mail: timvalentine@swale.gov.uk
Our Ref: Cliff1
Date: 26 January 2021

Dear Mr Eustice

Coastal Erosion – Isle of Sheppey, Kent

You may be aware of the historical coastal erosion issues along the unprotected northern coastline of the Isle of Sheppey, running from the eastern end of Minster-on-Sea to the coastal defences at Leysdown, and in particular the cliff collapses which occurred in May 2020, resulting in the loss of a residential property and placing several nearby properties at imminent risk of collapse.

For some time, we as elected Members of Swale Borough Council have been campaigning for positive action to be taken along this section of coastline to protect properties at risk from erosion. However, due to the current Shoreline Management Plan Policy for this coastal unit of "No Active Intervention" we are advised by the Environment Agency that funding cannot be accessed through DEFRA for any works to mitigate against further erosion. For information, this section of coastline falls under Policy Units 4a04 and 4a05 of the SMP 10 Isle of Grain to South Foreland.

At Swale's Full Council Meeting on Wednesday, 11th November 2020, Members passed the following motion on the current coastal policy and we are therefore writing to you in this respect on a subject that has received substantial media coverage since the events of May 2020:-

"In view of impact of climate change accelerating the rate of the erosion on the Sheppey cliffs, this Council wishes to change Government policy to prevent further unsustainable erosion, thereby protect the existing, expanding, and future population of Sheppey. Swale Borough Council undertakes to seek the removal of the government coastal policy of non-intervention, with its serious social and commercial implications, and replace that policy with a policy of protection of the coastline."

/continued…

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Making Swale a better place

The resident group that have raised the issues has also informed the collapse has impacted the National Coastal Footpath route which we would also appreciate an update on.

We look forward to discussing this issue with yourself and would like to thank you in advance for your time in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Tim Valentine
Cabinet Member for the Environment

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Cllr Tim Valentine
Cabinet Member for the Environment
Swale Borough Council

timvalentine@swale.gov.uk

Your ref: Cliff1
Our ref: TO2021/09149

3 February 2022

Dear Cllr Valentine,

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2021 to the Secretary of State about coastal erosion in the Isle of Sheppey. Please accept our sincere apologies for the considerable delay in responding. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence.

Shoreline management plans (SMPs) are developed by Coastal Groups with members mainly from local councils and the Environment Agency. They identify the most sustainable approach to managing the flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline in the:

- short-term (0 to 20 years).
- medium term (20 to 50 years).
- long term (50 to 100 years).

The policy options set out in the Isle of Grain to South Foreland SMP were all adopted by the relevant operating authorities in the first half of 2008. These include Swale Borough Council, which was involved in developing and adopting the SMP policy of No Active Intervention. Whilst this was developed in line with Defra guidance, including HM Treasury rules on economics, it is not a Government policy.

In this particular situation, the SMP policy was agreed as the most sustainable policy for a number of reasons, namely:

- It covers an area of geological SSSI which is an important feature and would be harmed by the introduction of defences.
- The sediment released from cliff erosion in this area is an important source of sediment for other areas along the coastline. This protects other communities and internationally protected sites in the wider estuary.
- The funding of flood defences is governed by HM Treasury rules based on protecting people and property. The protection of isolated properties and caravan parks in this location is challenging to justify under the current economic rules. This is a challenge shared by many locations around the coast of England.
- The nature of the risk in this area is one of land slip compounded by erosion. This is a particularly challenging combination to deal with and indeed a scheme implemented in 2015 by Swale Borough Council proved ineffective.

The SMP documents are living documents and the SMP policy can be changed in some cases, where new evidence is available. To do this the SMP change process highlighted in the updated supplementary SMP guidance must be followed. This enables all parties involved to respond to these concerns and requires final approval from the Environment Agency. To initiate this process, Swale Borough Council should refer the issue to the SMP Governance group via the Coastal Group Chair, Bryan Curtis. The SMP Group is currently led by Liam Wooltorton at Canterbury District Council. A change in policy at this location would not in itself attract funding for defences and the challenge of economic justification noted above should be considered.

Since 2018, the Environment Agency has been working with Coastal Groups and SMP Groups to undertake a “refresh” of the SMPs around England to ensure they remain fit for purpose. This is not a complete review. The initial findings of this work suggested that nationally it would not be possible or economically viable to implement the preferred policies. In this particular location, the project highlighted the risk to an array of caravan parks and properties near Eastchurch. It highlighted that the long-standing requirement for adaptation planning in this area had not been taken forward. Adaptation planning has been implemented in other areas around the country, which may help to inform options for this location. The locally designated Coastal Change Management Area may also help to guide decisions on things like property relocation or roll-back.

It is also worth noting that there is basic assistance offered in the form of the Coastal Erosion Assistance Grant for the demolition of properties at imminent risk from erosion. More details of this can be supplied if required.

The issue with the National Coastal Footpath is for the consideration of Natural England. We note, however, that the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 does include provision for stretches of coastline which are subject to erosion.

To go into more detail on the change process, the South East Coastal Group (SECG) is an integral part of an approval process for any changes to SMP policies. Overall, the responsibility of the SECG is to ensure that any changes to the SMP are consistent with the change Framework, reflect the often complex and different pressures on the coast, are legal and to be aware of any precedents that a change may create.

Specifically, the SECG needs to:

- Agree the policy changes to be contained within the SMP.
- Seek ratification of SMP policies within SECG organisations.

This change process covers the main elements of the SMP itself and the SMP Action Plan only where it would constitute a change to the overall plan and its management options. It does not cover normal updates to the Action Plan which do not change the SMP context or any of the detailed findings.

The reasons to update an SMP policy are:

- Significant new research or evidence on parameters that informed the decisions taken whilst developing the SMP.
- Significant changes in Government policy, such as on spatial planning and adaptation since the SMP was approved.
- Significant new evidence arising from further investigation into local options, such as from a Strategy Plan or scheme feasibility study.
- A severe event has made an element of the existing SMP policy or action plan untenable.
- Textual corrections or clarification of meaning required since SMP approval.

- Organisational change amongst those involved in SMP development that may affect SMP implementation.
- A need to update or amend programmes of work following work progressed. This does not mean that the SMP, or something about the way it was developed, was wrong. It is designed to improve future outcomes.

The change process involves a Steering Group, which includes the following organisations, which would all have to agree the proposed change to a policy:

- **Canterbury City Council** (the SMP lead authority) and Swale Borough Council, who have coast protection responsibilities. Canterbury City Council is responsible for the administration of updates for this SMP.
- **The Environment Agency**, which is responsible for managing sea flooding and has the strategic overview for managing all forms of flooding and erosion.
- **Natural England**, which has statutory responsibilities on environmental matters.
- **English Heritage**, which has statutory responsibilities for monuments and historical sites.
- **Kent County Council** in their capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority and with responsibility for supporting the SMP and its delivery. In addition, others are invited to attend for their technical expertise, or if they are lead organisations for specific actions.

Any proposed major changes to SMP policy must include community and stakeholder consultation prior to being submitted for approval by local authority cabinet, submission to the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SRFCC) and final approval by the Environment Agency. The type and extent of consultation will vary depending on the location and the nature of change. Details of the consultation and its results will be included, however, in any report for cabinet approval. The consultation will typically be targeted at the wider public, including individuals, community or interest groups and impacted parish councils. Changes identified as moderate changes may also require wider community consultation.

Any substantive changes to the SMP or outcomes from the action plan will need to be approved by Swale Borough Council Cabinet and Kent County Council Cabinet. The SRFCC are responsible for 'reviewing and endorsing' SMPs and agreeing the programme and funding for flood and coastal risk management works. Amended SMPs must be submitted for approval to the Committee once the change has been made. To ensure independent scrutiny and local consultation, the Environment Agency will then approve changes to the SMP once the SRFCC has given its approval.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hill
Ministerial Contact Unit

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Environment Committee	
Meeting Date	March 18 2025
Report Title	Revised Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan Report
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Janet Hill, Climate Change Officer
Classification	**Open**
Recommendations	1. To adopt the revised Action Plan

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 On 26 June 2019 the Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency setting ourselves challenging targets to achieve net zero carbon for the council by 2025 and net zero carbon across the Borough by 2030.

1.2 In April 2020 the then Cabinet adopted an Action Plan to deliver the targets.

1.3 While we have made good progress and fulfilled many of the actions within the Plan it has become evident that we will not meet the ambitious targets we set ourselves and the Borough.

1.4 We have worked with the Carbon Trust to determine realistic targets and worked across the Council to draft the revised Action Plan in appendix 1.

1.5 It is proposed that our own targets dates for net zero are 2035 for scope 1 and scope 2 emissions and 2045 for scope 3 emissions. For the Borough we are proposing a target date of 2045 – still ahead of national and Kentwide targets.

2 Background

2.1 Since the Spring of 2019 councils across the UK declared climate emergencies of varying types and ambition. Swale had one of the most ambitious within Kent and nationally.

2.2 In common with most other local authorities, we are now revising our Action Plan due to it being clear that targets will not be met.

2.3 We worked with the Carbon Trust to revisit our carbon footprint, to determine progress and to establish what could realistically be achieved. We have worked this information into the Action Plan.

2.4 The Carbon Trust also provided the tools and training to better measure our progress against the Action Plan and as with the former Action Plan there will be an Annual Report in January each year to full Council.

2.5 We have reviewed the actions from the original Action Plan, retained some, added new ones and grouped them into seven themed areas

- Council Operations
- Air Quality and Sustainable Transport
- Low Carbon Business and Industry
- Low Carbon Buildings and Energy Efficiency
- Waste and Resource Consumption
- Resilient Communities and Engagement
- Biodiversity Net Gain and Ecology

2.6 The new themes reflect the need for us to engage more with our communities and businesses and to support their carbon saving activities.

2.7 The Action Plan will be a living document and will be updated to reflect other policies as they are adopted.

2.8 The full revised Action Plan can be found at Appendix I.

3 Proposals

3.1 To adopt the revised Action Plan.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

4.1 We could continue with the existing Action Plan but it is out of date for our own operations and unlikely to be fulfilled for the Borough. This is not recommended.

4.2 We could decide not to have an Action Plan – this would mean revoking the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration. There is no will to do this.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The Action Plan has been worked on and consulted on across the Council. Each action owner and their teams has contributed to the drafting and development of their actions.

5.2 The Climate and Ecological Emergency Steering Group (which includes councillors and officers) has reviewed the Action Plan.

5.3 The Action Plan has been reviewed by IAM, SMT and at the Leader's Briefing.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The Action Plan is cross cutting
Financial, Resource and Property	The actions are all met from within existing budgets. Grants from external sources will also be sought wherever possible.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The Action Plan supports improving our environment and contributes to the development of a more sustainable Council and Borough.
Health and Wellbeing	Improvements to the environment and sustainability have tangible health and wellbeing benefits.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I:Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

8 Background Papers

Motion to full council 26 June 2019

https://services.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/g2156/Public%20reports%20pack%2026th-Jun-2019%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=10

Action Plan report to Cabinet April 2020

Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

2025

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

Contents

Foreword

Left: Councillor Tim Gibson, Leader of the Council. Right: Cllr Rich Lehmann, Chair of Climate Change and Environment Committee

Climate change and biodiversity loss is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The scientific evidence of its ongoing and future impacts on the environment, public health, and economy are clear, beckoning immediate attention and action to protect both the natural world and the wellbeing of future generations. This was recognised in May 2019 when the Council unanimously declared a climate and ecological emergency with some of the most ambitious net-zero targets in the nation and the writing of an action plan was necessitated.

This led to the creation of the 2020 Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan, which has now run the course of its lifespan. Despite good progress, it has become evident that the Council must reassess our targets and develop a renewed strategy.

Swale Borough Council produces just 0.4% of the Borough's total emissions, and so while we will continue to lead by example, the Council recognises the need to turn our view outwards towards the community and work collaboratively to incur wider decarbonisation. This document is fronted by the requirement for concerted action by all sectors, with the council playing an active role in the bringing together of our businesses, community groups, and residents to incur effective, positive change.

The 2025 Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan is structured around seven key focus areas, through which we will work collaboratively to deliver a net-zero Council and Borough. The challenges in achieving this remain significant, but we are confident that doing so presents opportunity for a positive transformation of Swale. Stronger communities, the development of a green economy and the creation of new jobs, reduced inequality, improvements in public health, and an overall enhancement in the quality of life for our residents, these are just some of the benefits the successful delivery of net-zero presents.

We would like to invite every individual and organisation that is part of our community to join us in achieving this by taking meaningful action now for a future that is both sustainable and prosperous

1 Introduction

1.1 What is Climate Change?

The Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in its article 1, defines climate change as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global temperature and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.' This is known as anthropogenic (human caused) climate change.

1.2 What causes climate change?

Greenhouse gases are a naturally occurring component of our atmosphere and are critical to the survival of life on earth. In the right proportions, key greenhouse gases (GHG) such as Carbon Dioxide (CO_2), Methane (CH_4), and Nitrous Oxide (NO_2) and Ozone (O_3) ensure stable planetary conditions by balancing the amount of solar radiation that the atmosphere reflects or absorbs.

At the onset of the industrial revolution, atmospheric levels of CO_2 were estimated to have been stabilised around 280 parts per million (ppm). Since then, human activities produced by nearly every aspect of modern life have led to a sharp increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In 2024 atmospheric levels of CO_2 reached 423.6 ppm – not just the highest level since the industrial revolution but higher than at any point in the last two million years. This means that the potential for the atmosphere to absorb solar radiation outstrips its ability to reflect into space. Over an extended period, radiation builds up, resulting in rising global temperatures.

According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the eight consecutive years to 2023 were the eight hottest on record, while the IPCC estimates that global temperatures in 2024 are 1.04 °C above the pre-industrial baseline.

The changes in global temperature as the result of anthropogenic climate change were well illustrated by the Carbon Copy's warming stripes. Each stripe represents a year, while colouring dictates whether temperatures were cooler, or warmer than average. Figure 1 shows how temperatures have changed in Swale in the period 1884-2024.

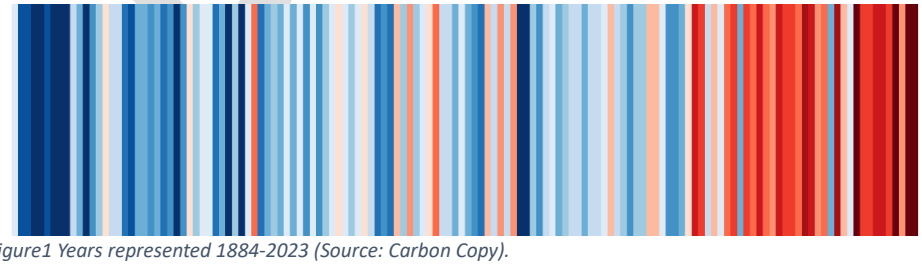


Figure1 Years represented 1884-2023 (Source: Carbon Copy).

2 Climate Risks

2.1 National Risks

Climate Change may feel like an issue far removed from our individual lives, but the impacts of a 1.04°C rise in global temperatures are already being felt. To highlight the threat of climate change and the risks it poses to the United Kingdom, the 2008 Climate Change Act necessitated the production of five-year Climate Change Risk Assessments (CCRA), which are informed by statutory advice by the Climate Change Committee (CCC).

The CCRA outlines eight high priority areas that intersect multiple sectors that climate change may have a serious impact on:

- risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
- risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought
- risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards
- risks to crops, livestock, and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards
- risks to supply of food, goods, and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks.
- risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system
- risks to human health, wellbeing, and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings
- multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas

2.2 Local Climate Risk

Figure 2: Likelihood of risk increasing over time, Source: CCRIA.

The Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment (CCRIA) for Kent and Medway was produced to support local authorities in their understanding of the risks that climate change poses to health, economy, infrastructure, and the natural environment. It extrapolates the urgency and scoring method from the national Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) through which key threats, opportunities,

and potential adaptions are measured. Risks and impacts are placed into three categories: high magnitude, medium magnitude, and low magnitude.

The CCRIA demonstrates how different emissions reduction pathways increase the likelihood and impact severity of climate risks and relates these to localised areas.

The Met Office's UK Climate Projections (UKCP) produced more localised modelling of the impacts of climate change, and have predicted that for the southeast by 2080:

- Summers are likely to be hotter by around 5°C to 6°C
- Winters are likely to be warmer by around 3°C to 4°C
- Summer rainfall is likely to decrease by 30% to 50%
- Winter rainfall is likely to increase by 20% to 30%
- Sea level rise is likely to increase by 0.8m

Combined, these resources paint a comprehensive image of potential threats that Swale will face if swift action is not taken. Some of the key risks and impacts are highlighted below (sections 2.3 to 2.7).

2.3 Heatwaves

Met Office UK Climate Projects (UKCP) estimated that by 2080 summers are likely to be hotter by around 5°C. An increase in the frequency and intensities of heatwaves poses a significant risk to public health, particularly vulnerable populations such as the elderly, young children, and those with chronic health conditions.

In 2022 the UK experienced its first day where temperature surpassed 40°C, with five separate heat periods between June and August estimated to cost the UK economy between £260-300 million through losses in the agricultural, tourism, transport, and education sectors. An estimated 2,985 excess deaths also occurred.

Figure 3- Source, Nasa Worldview

It is predicted that by 2050, deaths from heat could triple.

2.4 Droughts and Water Stress

Met Office UK Climate Projects (UKCP) estimated that by 2080 summer rainfall will decrease by between 30% and 40%.

Kent has experienced numerous instances of drought since the 1970s and in 2007 the County was officially classed by Defra as being seriously water stressed, meaning demand for water makes up a high percentage of expected rainfall.

It is estimated that by 2080, water demand in the Southeast could rise by as much as 2.6 billion litres a day.

This will have significant implications on high consuming sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing industries, energy producers, and could mean chronic water shortages for household purposes.

2.5 Sea Levels Rise, River, and Surface Water Flooding

Met Office UK Climate Projects (UKCP) estimates that by 2080 winter rainfall is likely to increase by between 20% - 30%, while sea levels could rise by as much as 0.8m.

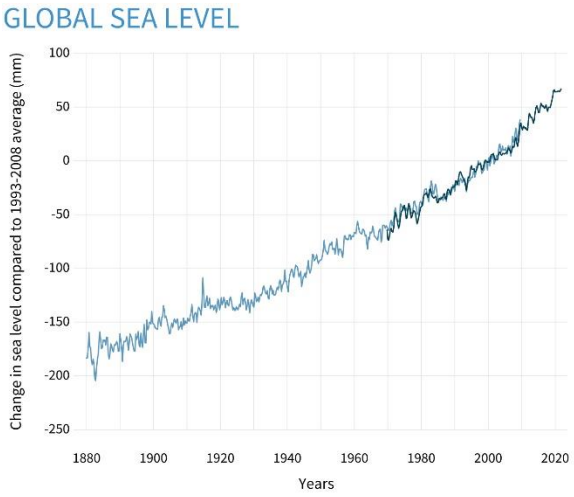


Figure 4: Source, NOAA Climate.Gov

Many areas of Swale are already susceptible to flooding, with in 2020 the Environment Agency reporting that 14,082 homes were at chronic risk. With the longest coastline of any Kent district at 111km, a rise in sea levels poses an imminent risk to many homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Swale is also home to a wealth of intertidal habitats which are vulnerable to rising sea levels, and which could be irrevocably damaged if levels rise.

2.6 Pests and Diseases

Changing weather patterns can lead to shifts in the ranges of habitats and biodiversity, resulting in the spread of pests and diseases. Swale's proximity to major ports, such as those in Dover and Sheerness, along with connections to passenger and freight crossings, mean that Kent may become at risk of being on the front line against non-native invasive species (INNS).

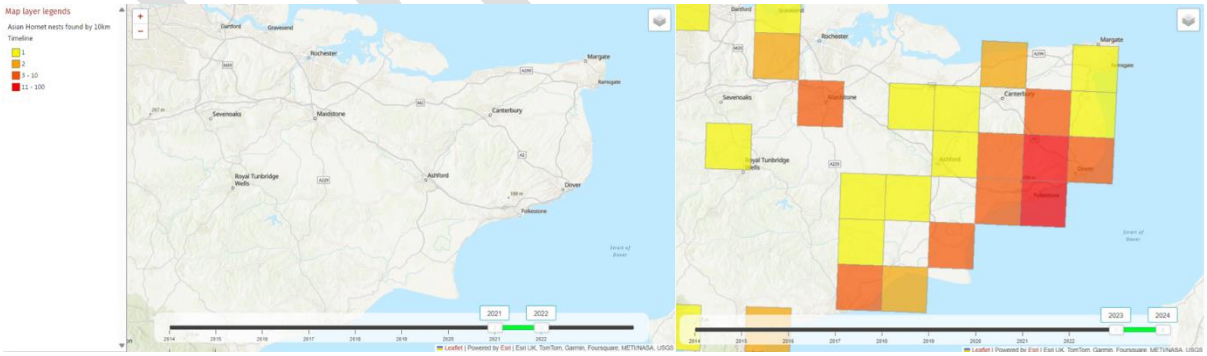


Figure 5: Left: Distribution of Vespa velutina, 2021. Right: distribution of Vespa velutina in 2023.

Milder winters can increase the potential for pathogens to overwinter in the UK, while earlier springs may favour the growth of other species. Recent years have seen this already happening, with Asian Hornets (Vespa velutina) and Killer Shrimp (Dikerogammarus villosus) populations growing, threatening honeybee populations and wetland habitats, respectively.

2.7 Natural Environment

All the above pose a serious risk to biodiversity and could result in habitat loss and alterations in species range.

Swale is lucky to have a wealth of important habitats, including wetlands such as Elmley National Nature Reserve and Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, ancient woodlands such as Cromers Woods and the Blean. These are important not just for biodiversity but are also vital resources in adapting and mitigating against climate change.

The impacts on the natural environment would have wider implications for Kent in terms of economy and society, with the county's natural assets being a key draw for tourism, as well as an important resource in residents' health and wellbeing.

3 Policy Framework

In the last thirty years, a consensus has formed amongst the global scientific community that the sustained changes in global temperature experienced since the industrial revolution are directly caused by human activities. This consensus has been the catalyst for the formation of a plethora of international climate change policy. Often, these stress the responsibility of everyone; from international political unions, states, local governments, to individuals in effectively tackling climate change.

3.1 International

World leaders first recognised the seriousness of climate change and the need for action through the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. This set the ground for the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an institution whose primary aim is to promote international action around the issue. Meetings of the UNFCCC have led to numerous international agreements, among which the most notable are the 1977 Kyoto Protocol and the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted on 11 December 1997 and entered into force in February 2005. This committed 37 industrialised states and economies, including the United Kingdom, into adopting legally binding emission reduction targets. While this was an important step for international climate change legislation, the Protocol was criticised for not going far enough, with reduction targets amounting to only a 5.2% decrease in the period 2005 – 2012.

The 2015 Paris Agreement is another legally binding international treaty on climate change which was adopted by 196 states during the Paris United Nation Climate Change Conference (COP21). Signatories to this committed to limiting temperature increases in line with IPCC recommendations; no more than 2°c above preindustrial levels, while pursuing all reasonable measures to keep the increase below 1.5°c.

3.2 National

In 2008, the UK Government passed the Climate Change Act which committed the country to reducing its emissions by 80% by 2050 against a 1990 baseline. In 2019, the government amended the Act to become the first major economy to commit to net-zero. This was to be achieved by 2050. The new target requires the government to set legally binding limits on the UK's greenhouse gases each five years, today these are known as carbon budgets, and have become a standard way for local authorities to strategise their own paths to net-zero.

In 2021, the UK Government also legislated biodiversity targets through the Environment Act. These require a halt in the decline of species populations by 2030, and an increase by a minimum of 10% by 2042, with subsequent recovery of water bodies, the increase in national woodland cover to 16.5% and the restoration of 70% of designated features in Marine Protected Areas by 2042. This also set into place mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain for most developments.

3.3 Regional

Kent County Council has also developed its own targets, which are laid out in the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES). This was published in 2017 and formally adopted in 2020. Similarly to the national targets, ELES sets five-year carbon budgets and emission reduction pathways to 2050, aiming for an 80% reduction by 2030.

The County Council has also recognised the important role a healthy natural environment plays in achieving net-zero, publishing the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045. This sets out the how nature throughout Kent will be protected and restored.

3.4 Local

In June 2019 Swale Borough Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency, recognising the threat Climate Change posed locally, nationally, and globally. The declaration included the commitment to:

- take all measures within our control to make Swale Borough Council's own operations carbon neutral by 2025.
- engage with businesses, organisations, and residents to facilitate the action required to make the Borough of Swale carbon neutral by 2030.
- make space for nature as a key priority, and safeguard our wild places, ancient woodlands, and hedgerows.

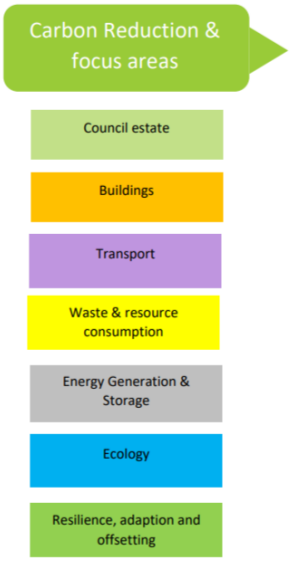


Figure 6: Key focus areas from the 2020 Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

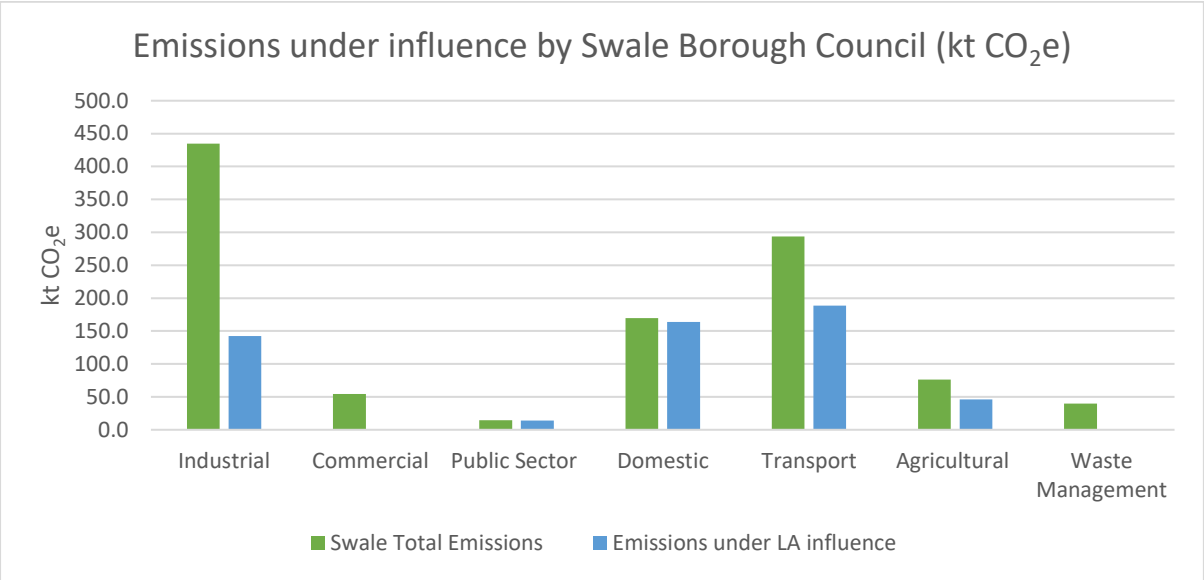
In April 2020, Swale Borough Council published the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan, which strategised how the council was to achieve the commitments made within the declaration. The scope covered by these commitments includes both the production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2, and 3).

The Action Plan provided 81 actions across a range of focus areas, forming what was at the time among the most ambitious action plans in the country.

4 Strategy, Purpose and Scope

A 2024 review into Swale Borough Council's emissions by the Carbon Trust found the authority was responsible for 3,318 tCO_2e across scope 1, 2 and 3. This means that the Council is responsible for 0.31% of the Borough's total emissions.

The Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) release annual greenhouse gas statistics which include the proportion of the Borough's emissions that are influenceable by the authority. Graph 1 shows that 607.6 kt CO_2e, or 56.8% of the Borough's emissions could be influenced by Swale Borough Council.



Graph 1: Source, DESNZ

This demonstrates that while international governing bodies and national governments have an unwavering responsibility to address the climate crisis, that it is also of paramount importance for local authorities such as Swale to take the lead and develop robust climate strategies that make the most of our relationships with local institutions, businesses, and residents.

This 2025 Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan outlines how Swale Borough Council will continue to lead by example, achieving net-zero in our own operations, while pursuing all means to influence wider action across the borough through our policies, services, and partnerships.

The scope of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan incorporates all greenhouse gases (GHGs) and uses carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e) as the unit of measure. For ease throughout this report, we use the term 'carbon'.

The globally accepted carbon accounting standard known as the World Resources Institute (WRI) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol defines direct and indirect organisational emissions as follows:

- Direct GHG emissions are emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting entity.

- Indirect GHG emissions are emissions that are a consequence of the activities of the reporting entity but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity.

The GHG protocol further categorises these direct and indirect organisational emissions into three broad scopes:

Scope 1: all direct GHG emissions

Scope 2: indirect GHG emissions from consumption of purchased electricity, heat, or steam.

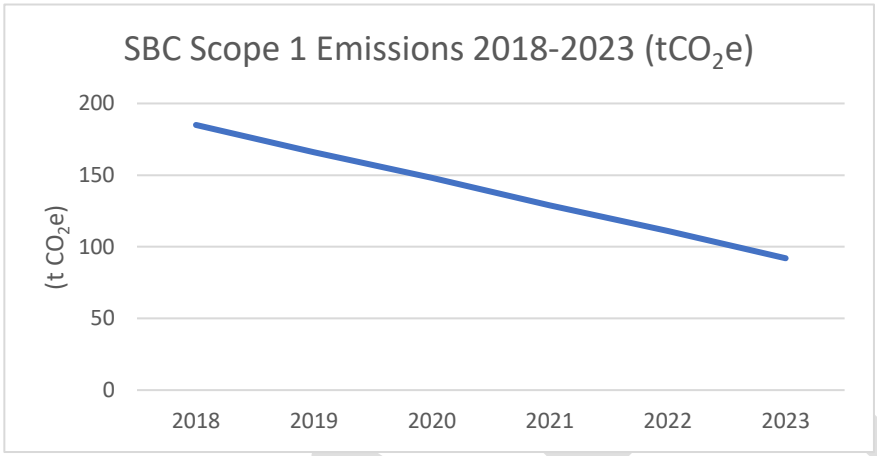
Scope 3: Other indirect emissions, such as the extraction and production of purchased materials and fuels, transport-related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the reporting entity, electricity-related activities (e.g. transmission and distribution losses) not covered by scope 2, outsources activities, waste disposal, etc.

As demonstrated in graph 1, much of the resulting carbon emission are derived from sources beyond the council, and as such, it is vital our strategy is centred around working with others to tackle the climate emergency.

To meet our targets, 36 actions have been designated into seven key focus areas:

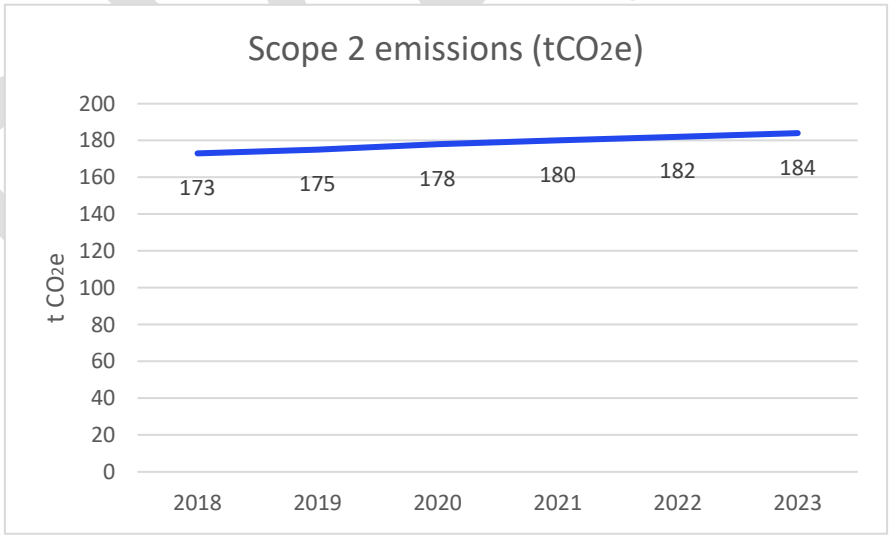
5 Baselining – Council Operations

An audit of the Council's services was undertaken throughout 2024, giving the Council an understanding of how our emissions have changed since the 2019 Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration. The results of this have been disaggregated by scope, helping to build a better picture of the activities which produce the highest emissions.



Graph 2: Source, Carbon Trust

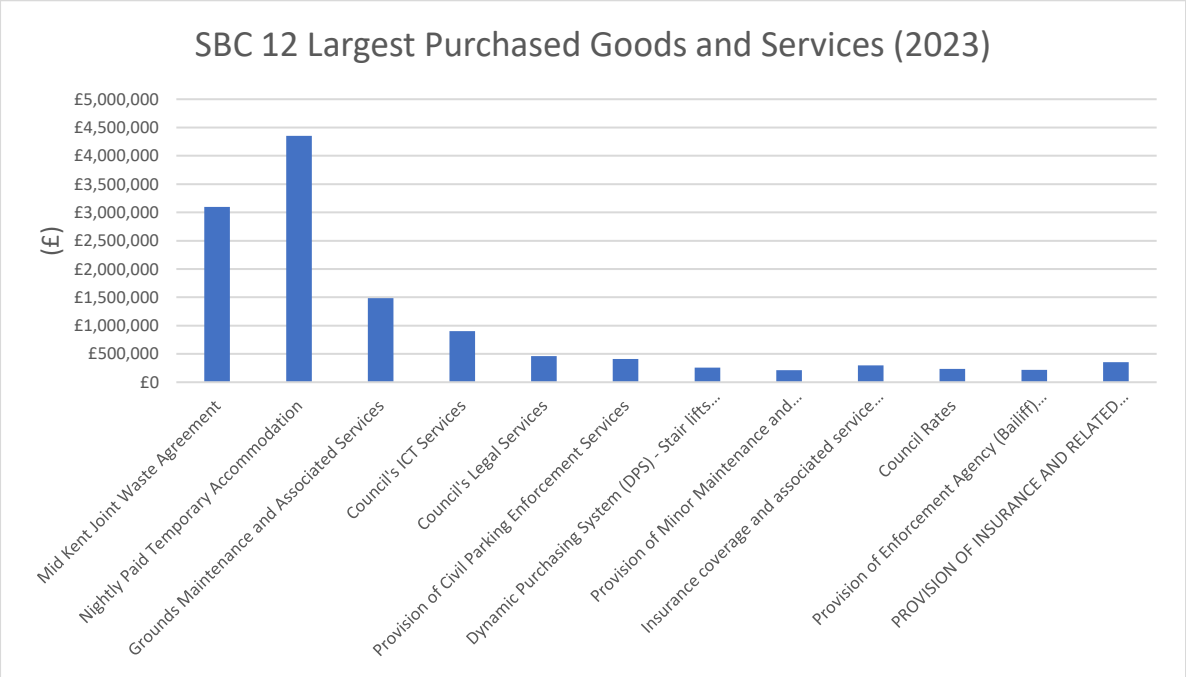
Scope 1 emissions- those directly within the council's control- have decreased by 50.2% in the years 2018-2023, representing a fall of 93 tCO_2e.This can be attributed to a 41% decrease in the use of natural gas, while business mileage halved, and diesel vehicles have been swapped out for an electric fleet.



Graph 3: Source, Carbon Trust

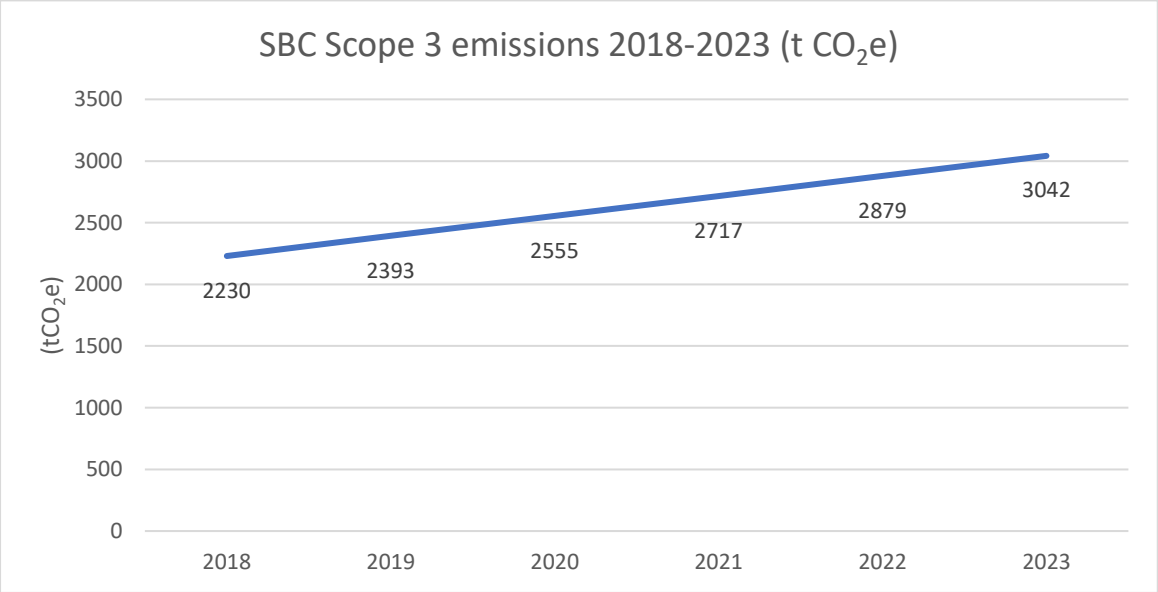
Scope 2 emissions have seen a 6% increase. Investigations are underway to understand exactly why this has happened, however it may be caused in part by the requirement to charge electric vehicles. Scope 2 emissions are likely to decrease dramatically in the next decade as the Council installs solar PV on the roof of Swale House and the wider grid decarbonises.

Scope 3 emissions arise from our supply chain and so were calculated by incorporating monetary values of our largest purchased goods and services into the GHG factor standard. The 12 largest purchased goods and services are illustrated in graph 4.



Graph 4: Source, Procurement and Commissioning Manager.

The two most carbon intensive goods and services are the Mid Kent Joint Waste Agreement and the Nightly Paid Temporary Accommodation. Scope 3 emissions have increased by 36% since 2018.



Graph 5: Source, Carbon Trust

Despite positive progress in Scope 1 emissions, the Council will not achieve its targets to be net zero by 2025.

6 Targeting- Council Operations

The past five and a half years have been extremely unusual and challenging and have certainly contributed to the hampering of the transition to net-zero. Despite this, the time since the 2019 Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration has been marked by strong ambition and achievements.

It is critical however, that this new Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan considers the barriers the Council faces in our transition to net-zero and sets out targets balanced carefully between ambition and realism (setting clear our, and our residents, reliance on an ambitious national policy landscape).

As demonstrated by the baselining, it is clear that net-zero will be more achievable in the short-term for some scopes than others.

6.1 Scope 1 Targets

Swale's scope 1 emissions have halved in the past six years, demonstrating a short-term achievability if a high level of ambition is maintained.

This is why a target of 2035 is being set for the Council's scope 1 emissions.

6.2 Scope 2 Targets

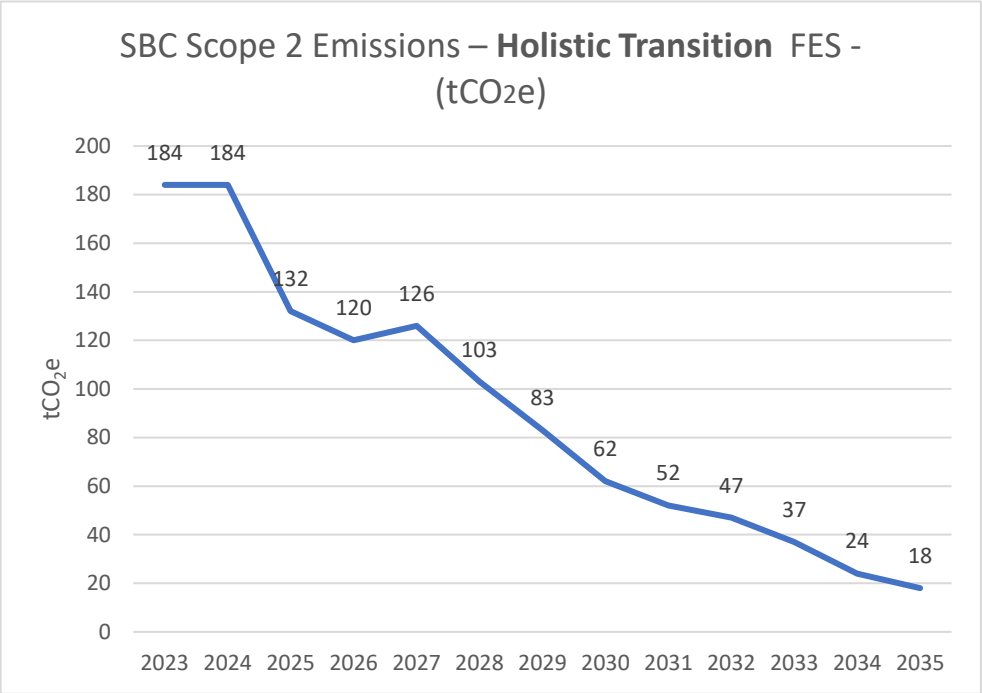
The Council's scope 2 emissions largely stem from the purchase of electricity.

While these emissions have risen by 6%, the Council is in the process of installing solar panels on Swale House, which will offset 50% of the building's current electricity consumption, thereby reducing the Council's scope 2 emissions.

It is worth noting that scope 2 emissions will decrease significantly as the national grid decarbonises, as demonstrated by the National Grid's Future Energy Scenarios (FES). FES are models used to predict the future of the UK energy system and understand how it must transform to meet the UK's 2050 net-zero target. Each scenario factors in varying levels of change in infrastructure, technology, innovation, and consumer behaviour.

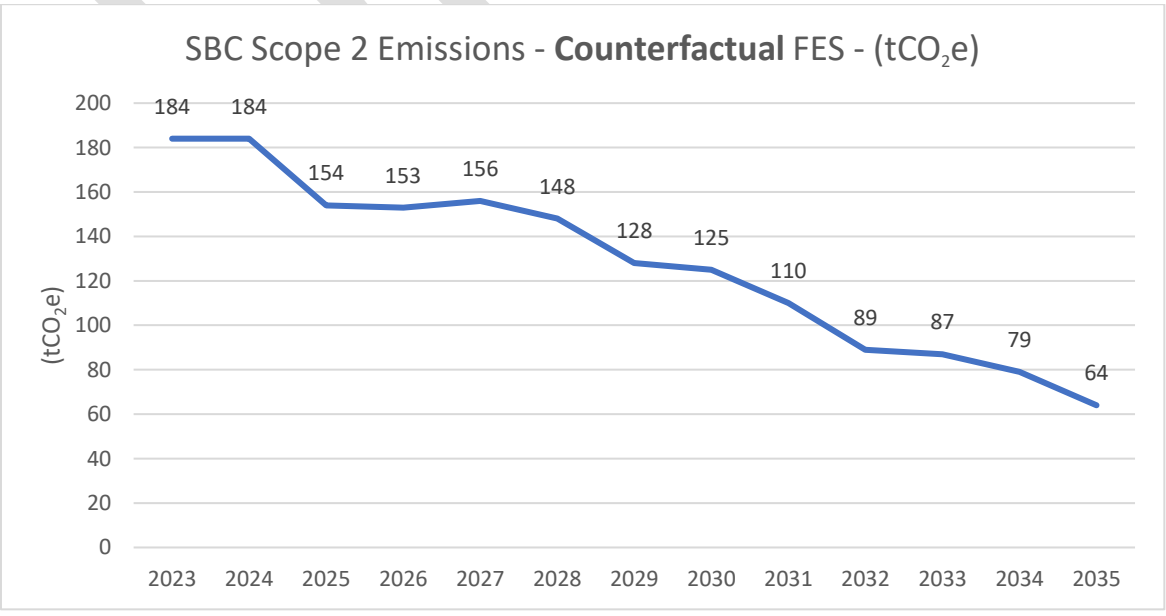
The Carbon Trust, in their review of Council operations, produced two models showing how different levels of ambition for national grid decarbonisation would affect the councils' own emissions.

The Holistic Transition FES (see graph 6) shows a high ambition scenario, with rapid decreases in the Council's scope 2 emissions.



Graph 6: Source, Future Energy Scenarios (FES)

The second modelled FES shows the counterfactual scenario, marked by stagnating efforts to decarbonise the national grid. Even in this scenario, the scope 2 emissions of the Council decrease significantly (65.2%) in the years leading up to 2035.



Graph 7: Source, Future Energy Scenarios (FES)

This is why we are setting a 2035 target for the Council's scope 2 emissions.

6.3 Scope Three Targets

Scope 3 emissions will be the hardest for the Council to address.

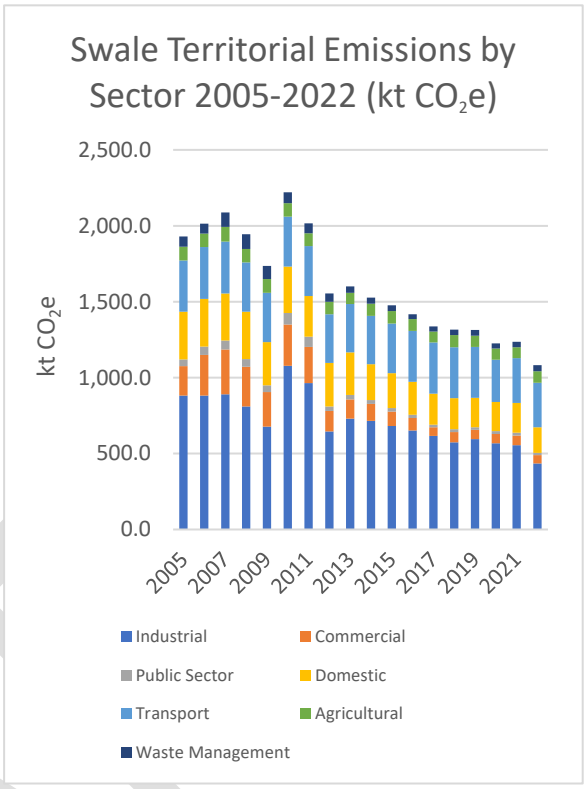
These emissions are derived from our supply chain through our purchased goods and services, many of which relate to statutory services. Thus, while the Council still has a degree of influence through our procurement processes and contract reviews, achieving net-zero within our scope three emissions will rely largely on wider decarbonisation. This will require strong support from central government for the industrial, commercial, domestic, and transport sectors in the form of comprehensive policy and funding.

With this reliance on external and often unpredictable factors, the Council has set a target date for scope 3 emissions to be net-zero by 2045.

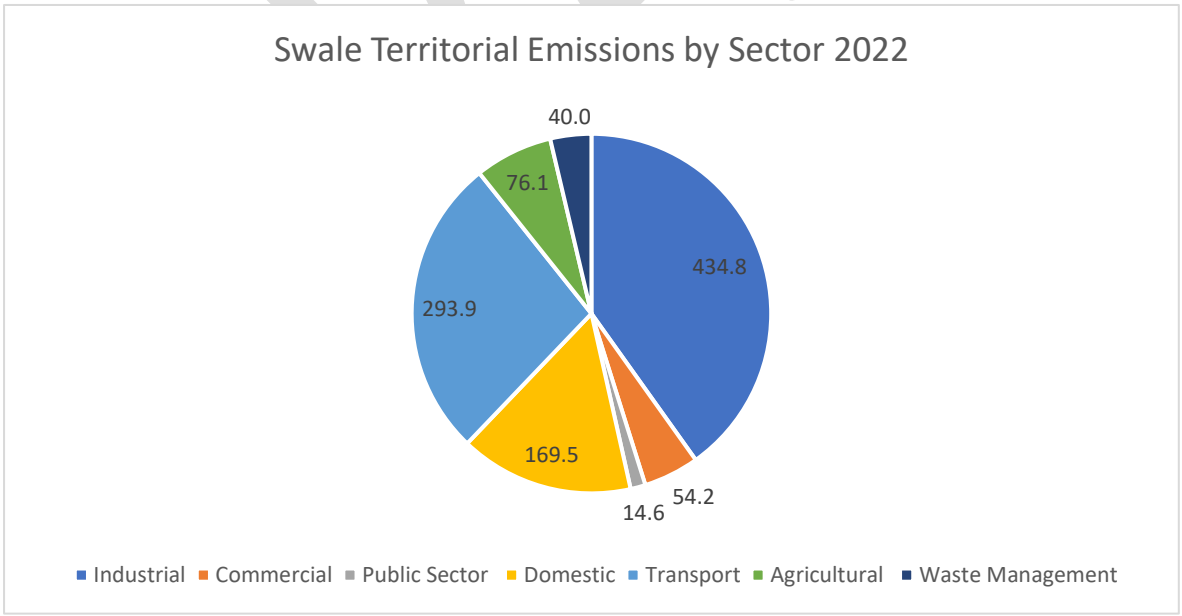
7 Baselining – Borough Wide Emissions

To establish the activities required to achieve our targets, we need to understand the existing situation not just within our own operations, but the whole Borough.

Data on local and regional GHG emissions is provided annually by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), formerly the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). To allow for robust reporting, there is a two-year lag in the data provided meaning that the most recent emissions are reported from the 2022 calendar year. If we look at levels of emissions over the past 17 years, we can see a clear downward trend across the Borough. Despite this, the Borough has the highest emissions of any Kent authority, followed by Gravesham. In 2022, the Borough emitted a total of 1068.9 kt CO_2e, representing a decrease of 44.3% since 2005.

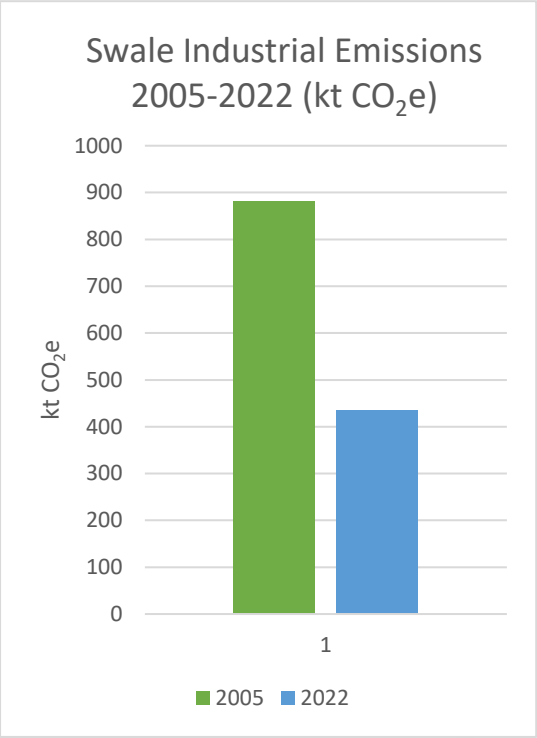


Graph 7 - Source DESNZ



Graph 8 - Source, DESNZ

The industrial and transport sectors are Swale's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases (40% and 27% respectively) followed by the domestic sector (16%), agricultural (7%), commercial (5%), waste management (4%), and public sector (1%).



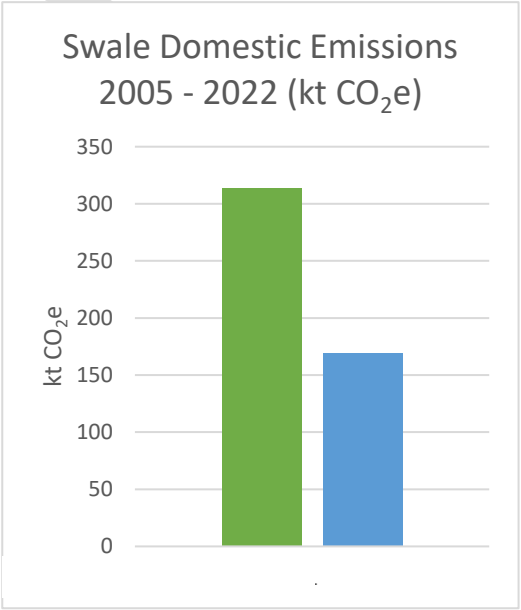
Graph 9 – Source, DESNZ

Due to the nature of business within the Borough, Swale has always had a large energy consumption and high industrial emissions, although these have declined substantially. In 2022, non-domestic gas consumption was 481.5 GWh, while non-domestic electricity consumption in the borough was 453.1 GWh. Industrial emissions peaked in 2010, and from this peak have fallen by 59.7% to 434.8 kt CO_2e. In 2022 emissions produced by the industrial sector accounts for 40.7% of the Borough's total emissions.

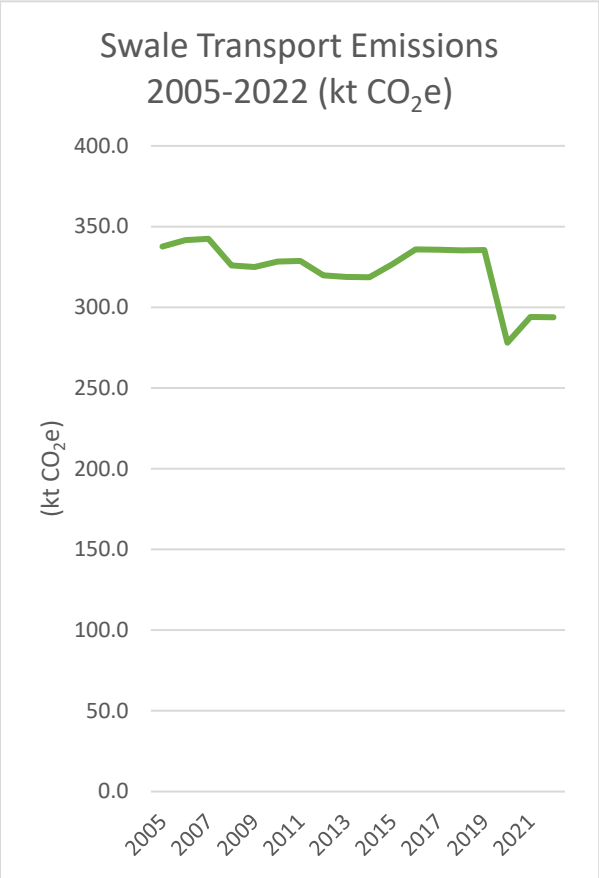
In 2022, domestic emissions account for 16% of the Borough's total emissions, with 65% of these emissions being produced from the use of domestic gas.

Total domestic gas consumption in the Borough during 2022 was 575.7 GWh with the average household consuming 9,915 kWh, a decrease of 43.4% since 2005. Total domestic electricity consumption in 2022 was 209.1 GWh, with the mean consumption per household at 3,258 kWh. This represents a decrease of 29.0% since 2005.

Between the years 2005 and 2022, domestic emissions decreased by 46% to 169.5 kt CO_2e.

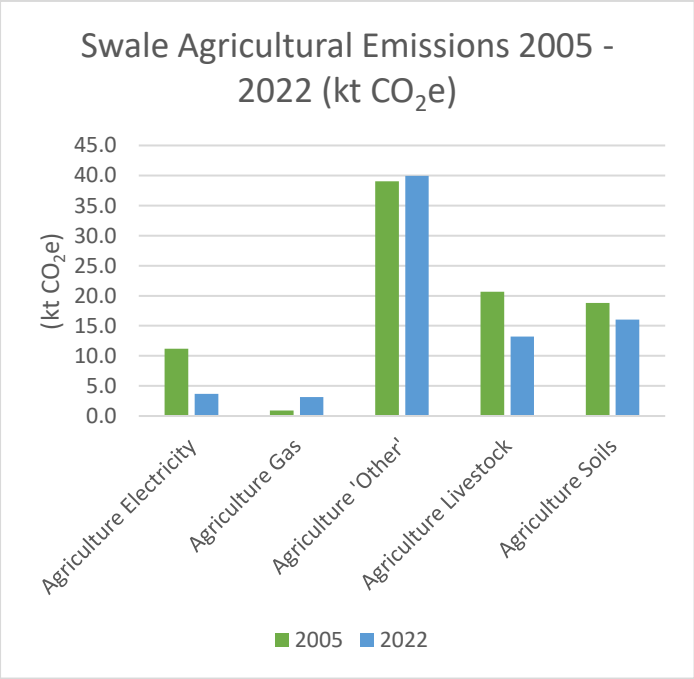


Graph 10 – Source, DESNZ



Graph 11 – Source, DESNZ

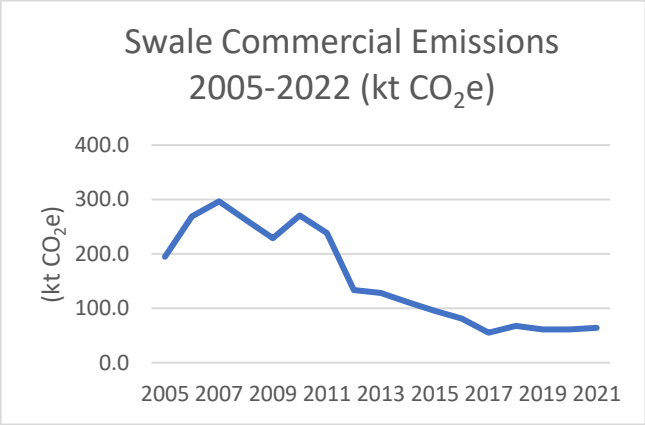
Transport sector emissions have remained relatively stable throughout the 2005-2022 reporting period. Emissions from the sector declined by 17.1% in 2020 as the result of reduced movement during the COVID-19 emergency, and although they have increased since restrictions were lifted, emissions remain 12.8% below pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, the sector emitted 293.9 kt CO_2e, or 27% of the year's total emissions. It is worth noting that a significant proportion (34.9%) of transport emissions arise from the use of motorways that run through Swale and will be hard for the authority to influence.



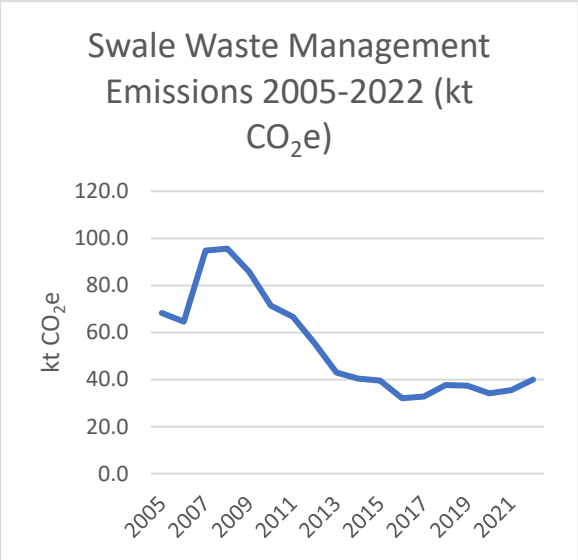
Graph 12- Source, DESNZ

Agricultural sector emissions have remained stable between 2005 and 2022, dropping by 16%. Although there have been decreases in emissions derived from agricultural electricity use and livestock, emissions from the use of gas and 'other' have risen. In 2022, the agricultural sector contributed 7% of the Borough's total emissions at 67.1 kt CO_2e.

Commercial emissions have seen the largest proportional decrease since 2005. In 2022, emissions form the sector had fallen by 72.2% to 54.2 kt CO_2e. Of this, 71.9% of emissions can be attributed to the use of electricity, and so emissions from the sector will continue to fall as the national grid decarbonises.



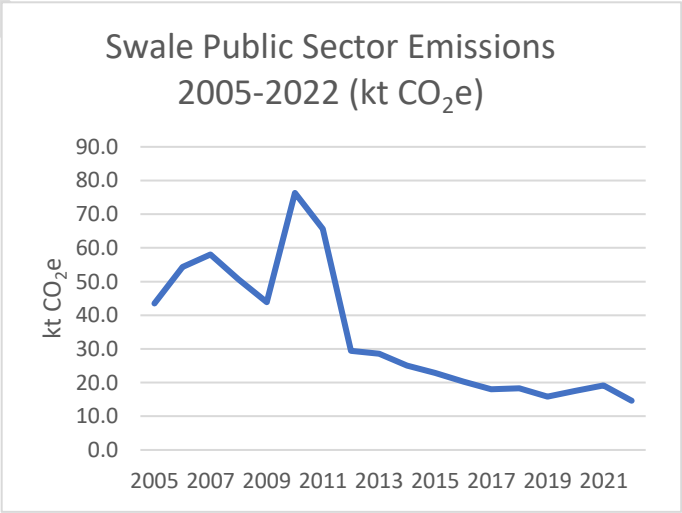
Graph 13- Source, DESNZ



Graph 14- Source, DESNZ

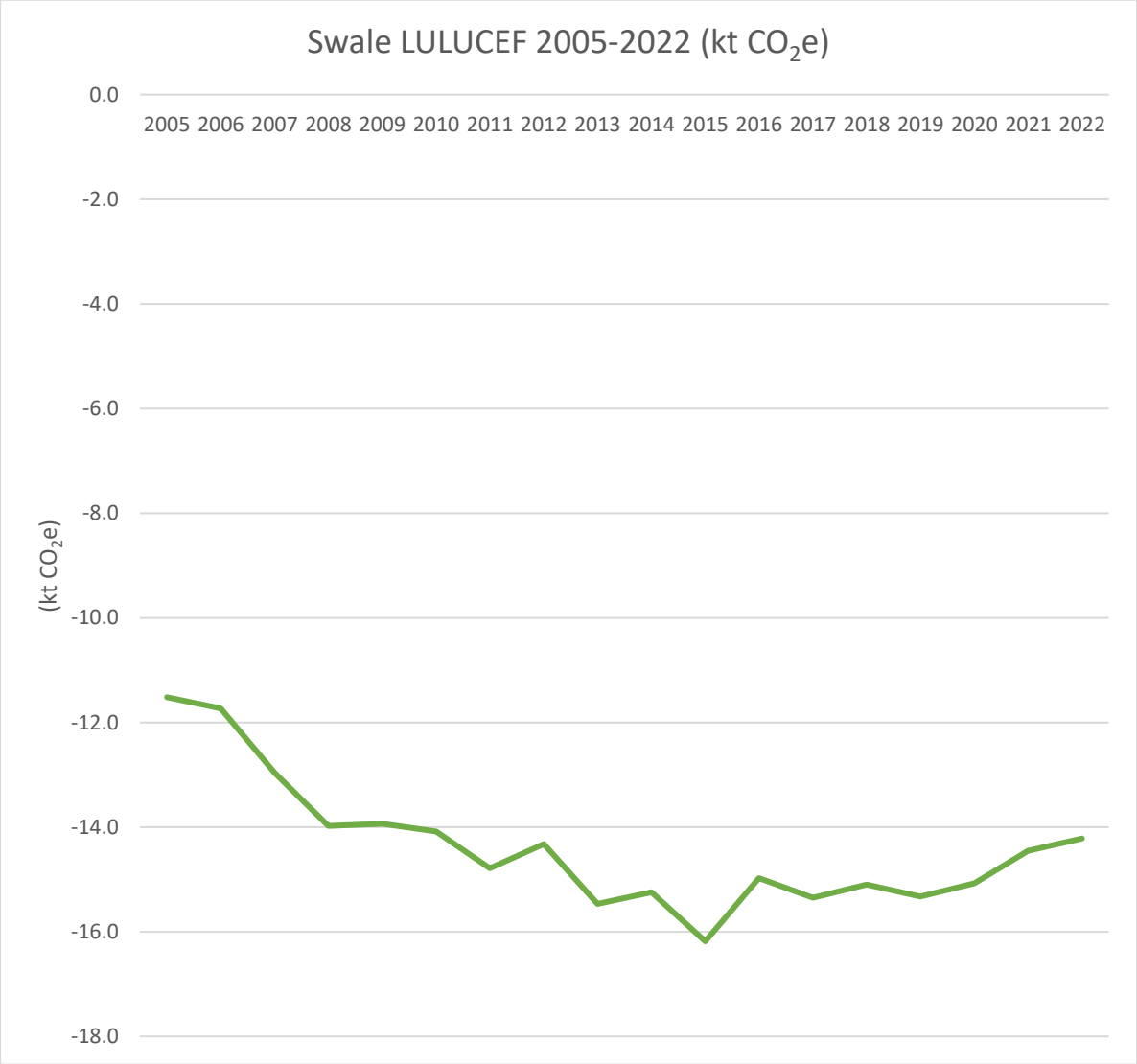
In 2022, waste management contributed to 4% of the Borough's total emissions, producing 40t of emissions. This represents a 41.3% decrease in the period 2005 to 2022.

Public sector emissions have decreased by 66.4% between the years 2005 and 2022. The most up to date DESNZ data shows that emissions from the sector now constitutes just 1% of the Borough's total emissions (14.6 kt CO_2e).



Graph 15- Source, DESNZ

Land use, Land- use Change and Forestry (LULUCEF) are considered as separately to the energy CO_2e budget and refers to the human activities that allow the accumulation of greenhouse gases - predominantly CO_2 - to accumulate in terrestrial ecosystems. These terrestrial carbon sinks can be woodland, grassland or wetlands. In 2022 14.2 kt CO_2e was sequestrated in Swale.

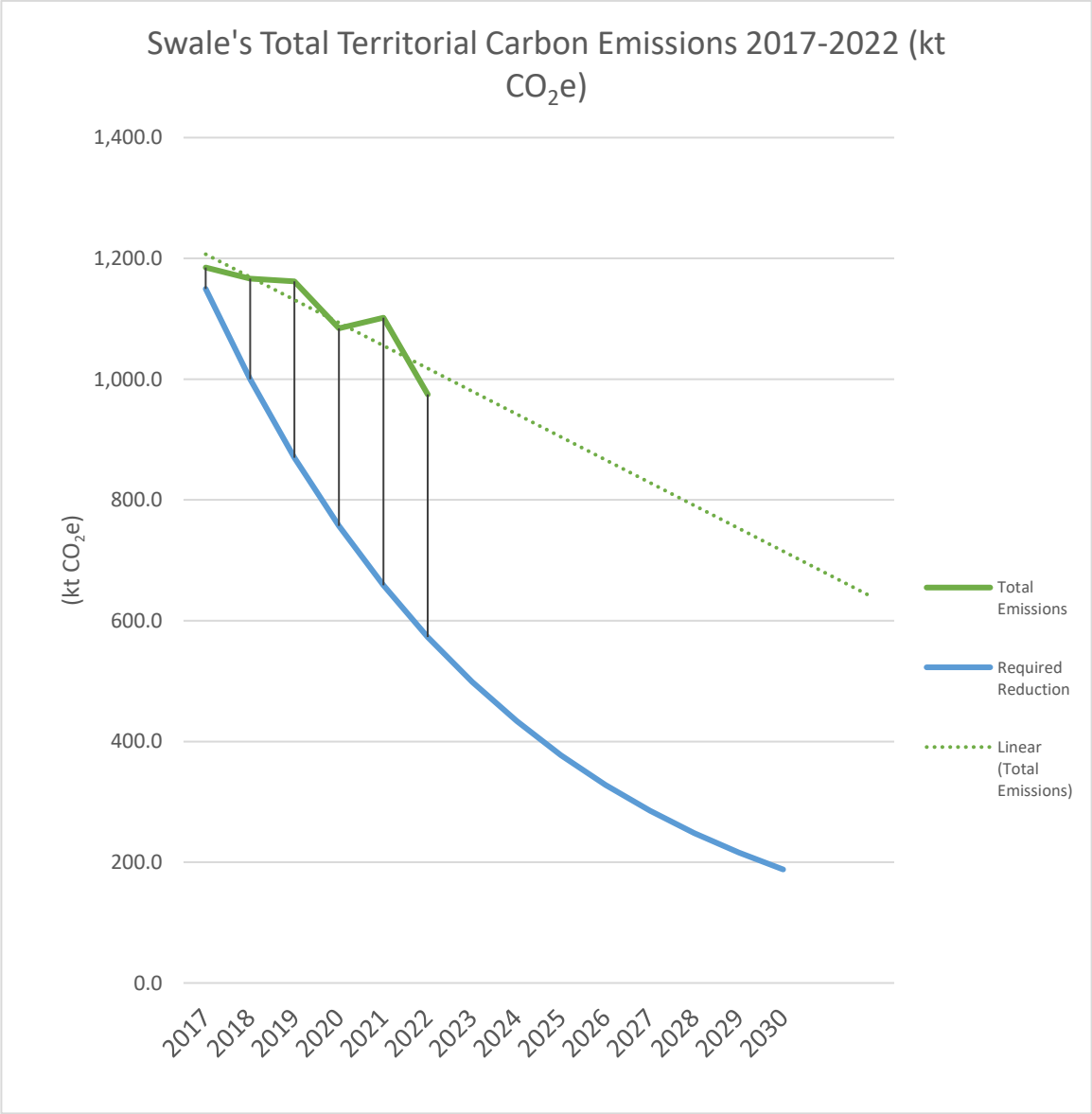


Graph 16 – Source, DESNZ

8 Targeting – Borough Wide Emissions

Despite a high level of ambition, it has become evident that emissions are not falling quickly enough to achieve our Borough wide net-zero target of 2030. The previous five years since the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration have been strenuous for everyone, and this has dampened the progress that needed to be felt across every sector.

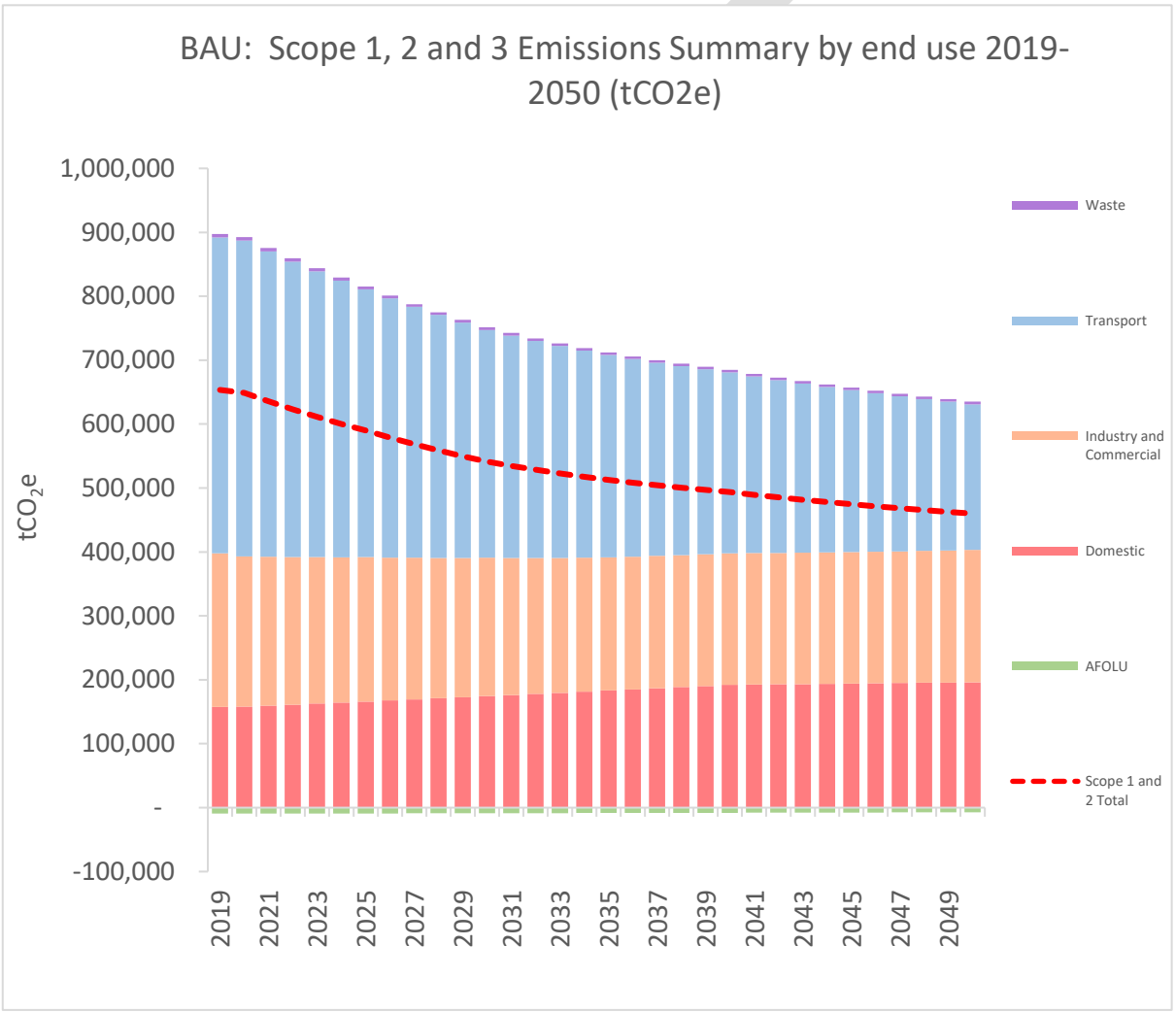
Graph 21 highlights the reduction that would be necessary to achieve the original targets, as well as the actual progress that has been made towards our 2019 targets.



Graph 17: Source, DESNZ and the Carbon Trust Ltd

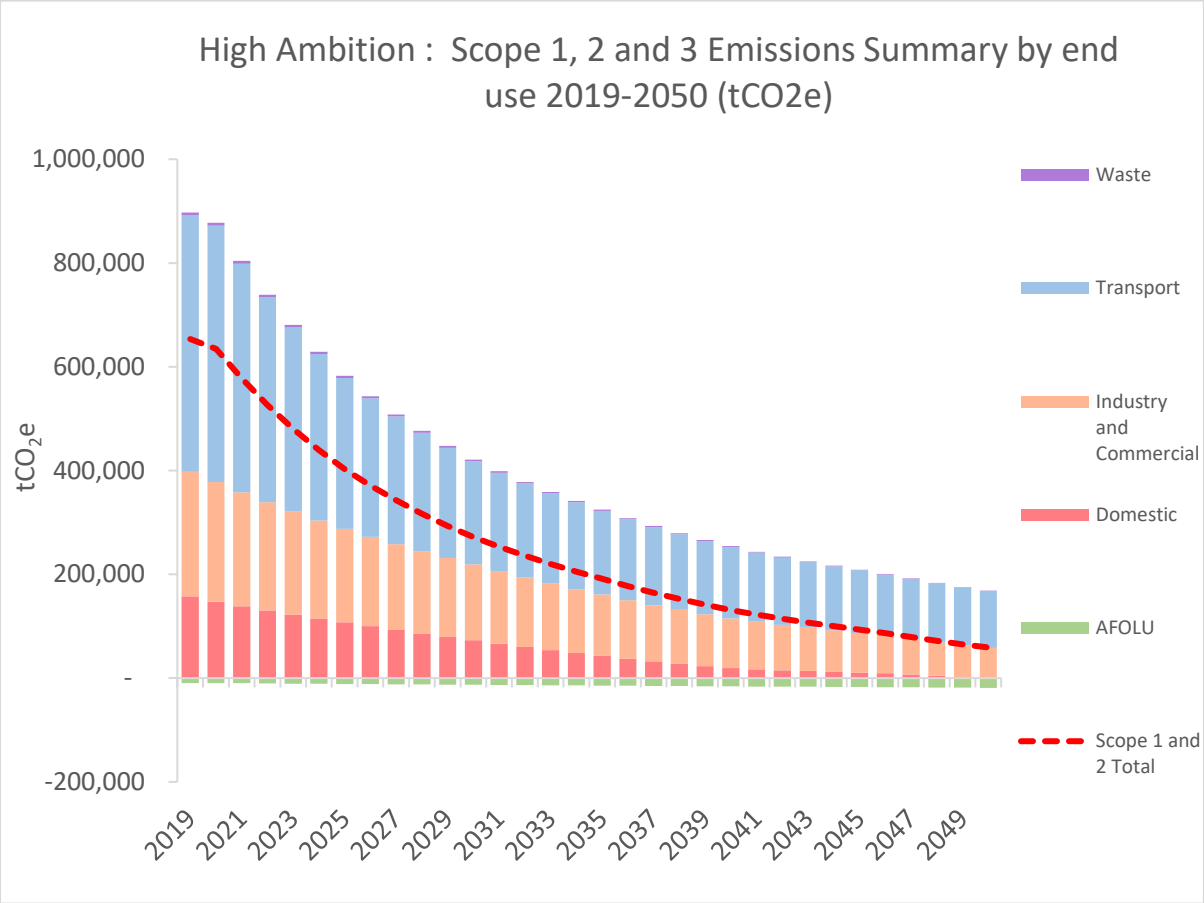
SCATTER is a tool used by local authorities to visualize emissions reductions pathways for their jurisdictions. Developed by Anthesis and funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net-Zero, the tool draws in a wide base of national and local public data, enabling authorities to forecast their emissions under a range of scenarios. To inform targeting for Borough wide emissions two SCATTER scenarios have been modelled.

The first model shows a business and usual (BAU) scenario, with efforts to decarbonise stagnating and little overall changes in the Borough's emissions. The industrial and commercial sectors see minimal changes, while domestic sector emissions increase as populations increase. To prevent the worst effects of climate change, this path must be avoided.



Graph 18: Source, SCATTER

Graph 19 shows a high ambition scenario in which rapid decarbonisation is experienced across all sectors. Despite this, SCATTER modelling does not show net-zero being achieved by the nationwide target of 2050.



Graph 19: Source, SCATTER

This means that the Council must take effective action to avoid a situation in which the Borough is not compliant with climate change legislation.

Swale Borough Council remains committed to the principles outlined by the original Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, such as leading by example. We aim to stay ahead of the emissions reductions curveball set out by national and regional policy.

Towards this aim we have revised the Borough wide net-zero target to 2045.

9 Actions

9.1 Council Operations

The Council's own estate and operations are the only area where Swale Borough Council has direct control to reduce carbon emissions, for example the council's buildings, parks and greenspaces, and the services that the council provides directly or procures. As demonstrated by the Council operations baselining, most of the Council's carbon footprint comes from procured services, meaning we can only decrease these through more stringent procurement policies.

Action	Department (s)	Outcomes
To bring forward business cases to retrofit Council assets where funding is available, and to identify grant and advocacy opportunities to support the retrofitting of tenanted premises'	• Property Services	That where feasible, council buildings are sustainably retrofitted, and standard sustainable clauses are implemented in the new and renewed leases of council owned buildings.
To ensure that the Council's commitments are balanced in all plans, strategies, and decisions as far as practical.	• All	That council led development and regeneration projects are compliant with emerging Local Plan policies.
To produce a Sustainable Events Policy	• Climate Emergency	To require that events taking place on council land avoid the use of single use plastics and have minimal impact on the local environment.
To provide training for purchasing Officers on procurement and commissioning which includes considerations on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration.	• Commissioning • Human Resources	That the Climate and Ecological Emergency is embedded further into the Councils procurement procedures, supporting the development of a 'green supply chain.'
To identify opportunities to reduce emissions from the Council's largest contracts through formal and informal agreements.	• Environmental Services • Climate Emergency • Housing	That a downward trend is seen in the council's scope 3 emissions.

9.2 Air Quality and Sustainable Transport

Swale's transport emissions remain 12.2% below pre-pandemic levels, yet still account for 27% of the borough's total emissions.

Currently 67.9% of commuter journeys made in the borough are made by private vehicle, which can have impacts on residents' safety, physical and mental health, and the wider environment.

Through this Action Plan the Council is seeking to promote a wide modal shift towards public transportation and active travel, working with partners such as KCC to develop an integrated transport system.

Action	Department (s)	Outcomes
Review the Electric Vehicle Strategy	• Climate Emergency • Parking Services	That the Council remains up to date with emerging technologies and are well prepared to deliver electric vehicle infrastructure.
Create and implement a Swale wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).	• Climate Emergency	That the Council takes a strategic approach to identifying improvements to active travel infrastructure.
Prioritise LCWIP routes that require infrastructure enhancements first.	• Climate Emergency	That routes which require infrastructure enhancements are supported by targeted funding bids at later stages in the delivery plan.
To work with KCC to deliver 20mph zones in urban centres across the borough.	• Climate Emergency	To deliver cost effective improvements in air quality, reductions in health inequalities and carbon footprints, and ensure towns are safe for active travel.
Support the delivery of measures outlined in the Air Quality Action Plan 2023 - 2028.	• Environmental Health • Climate Emergency • Planning Policy	To improve air quality across the borough, delivering improvements to resident's health.
Investigate the potential to install cycle parking facilities in Council owned car parks.	• Property Services • Climate Emergency	That where feasible, cycle storage is installed in Council owned car parks.

9.3 Low Carbon Business and Industry

While there have been significant reductions in the emissions of the industrial sector, 43% of Swale's territorial emissions are still derived from the sector. The Council cannot directly control these emissions, but it is important that we make the most of our networks to demonstrate long term financial and environmental benefits of transitioning to net-zero.

Action	Department	Outcomes
To include a 'green thread' throughout the next Economic Improvement Plan	• Economy and Regeneration	That future Economic Improvement Plan supports the economic sustainability of business by supporting their futureproofing environmentally.
Facilitate the sharing of best practice with publishment of local case studies.	• Economy and Regeneration	That businesses understand the financial benefits of low-carbon measures/ biodiversity enhancements.
To engage with businesses on a regular basis to understand how the Council can further support industry in the transition to net-zero.	• Climate Emergency • Economy and Regeneration	That the Council understands what low carbon measures are most feasible for businesses, how the council can support businesses in undertaking these, as well as the barriers that businesses face in the transition to net-zero.
Encourage and support the largest emitters to develop carbon reduction strategies.	• Economy and Regeneration • Climate Emergency • Environmental Health	That the largest emitters in the Borough have developed carbon reduction strategies by 2030.

9.4 Low Carbon Buildings and Energy Efficiency

16% of Swale's territorial emissions are derived from the domestic sector, presenting a major challenge. To achieve our targets, all homes will need to be properly insulated, which will require immediate changes in government policy and large financial support for mass retrofitting programmes to existing homes.

New homes will also need to be built as net-zero. The emerging local plan is pushing for this, although it is unlikely to be adopted until Autumn 2027, and equally there is no guarantee that our ambitious net-zero targets will be agreed by the Planning Inspector.

Action	Department(s)	Outcomes
That the council supports sustainable building practices and development.	• Planning Policy	The development of a Local Plan with robust policies which ensures the next generation of homes and businesses are energy efficient and run from renewable technologies.
To understand how to deliver a borough wide net-zero energy system.	• Climate Emergency	That by 2030 Swale will have a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).
To investigate the feasibility of heat networks in Swale.	• Climate Emergency • Private Sector Housing	That by 2030 Swale Council understands whether heat networks are feasible within the borough.
That the Council facilitates the creation of an approved list of renewable technology suppliers.	• Climate Emergency	That the council adheres to DESNZ recommendations, resulting in an increased uptake of renewable technologies for domestic and commercial purposes.
To support and promote retrofitting projects for Swale businesses and homes.	• Climate Emergency • Communications	That residents are kept aware of schemes available to reduce their homes carbon footprint.
To run a series of events targeting both landlords and owner occupiers promoting energy efficiency measures.	• Private Sector Housing • Climate Emergency	To engage residents about the financial and environmental benefits of improving the Energy Performance Certification of their homes.

9.5 Waste and Resource Consumption

The amount of household waste collected has fallen over the previous decade, and while recycling rates have an overall positive trend, they remain lower than the Council's partners in the Mid-Kent Partnership.

To become a carbon neutral borough, residents, organisations, and businesses will need to reduce their total waste, engage with the idea of the circular economy, and recycle more.

Action	Department (s)	Outcomes
To promote overall reductions in waste through the promotion of reduced consumption and a circular economy.	• Environmental Services • Climate Emergency	That a downward trend is seen in the amount of municipal waste generated.
Reduce contamination of recycling that leads to rejected loads.	• Environmental Services • Climate Emergency • Suez • Kent County Council	The development and implementation of a collaborative project which results in a downward trend in the number of loads rejected.
To promote the recycling of domestic and commercial waste.	• Environmental Services • Climate Emergency • Suez • Kent County Council	To achieve a 65% recycling rate by 2035.

9. 6 Resilient Communities and Engagement

In the five years since the publication of the first Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan, Swale Borough Council has forged strong partnerships with a wide range of organisations, from schools, charities, parish councils and community gardens, to businesses and universities.

With the Council's limited scope, the expansion of this network will be critical to the delivery of a net-zero Swale.

Action	Department	Outcomes
To develop a Climate Change Communications Plan.	• Climate Emergency • Community Partnerships • Economy and Regeneration • Communications and Policy	That our network is mapped, and a comprehensive plan developed which ensures the Council effectively engages with communities about the Climate and Ecological emergency.
To include a dedicated page in future versions of Inside Swale to the climate and ecological emergency.	• Climate Emergency • Communications and Policy • Private Sector Housing	That the council actively promotes measures individuals and communities can take to address the climate and ecological emergency.
To support the development of local green skills.	• Climate Emergency	That local colleges offer funded courses for green skills.
To expand the outreach of the Green Schools Forum.	• Climate Emergency	That every school in the borough will have a sustainability representative on the forum.
Expand the outreach of the Green Grid Community Forum	• Climate Emergency • Communications and Policy	That the forum's potential as a comms platform to engage residents is expanded.
To support parish councils in measuring their emissions and developing carbon reduction strategies.	• Climate Emergency	That every parish council in the borough has a carbon reduction strategy by 2030
To work with schools, community groups, and businesses to encourage low carbon travel.	• Climate Emergency	That engagement events are delivered which specifically highlight the benefits of sustainable travel, and that the percentage of primary schools with travel plans increases.
Work in partnership with schools, businesses, and parish councils to identify land for tree planting.	• Climate Emergency • Greenspaces	That the council collaborates with local organisations to plant 1000 whips per year.

9. 7 Biodiversity Net Gain and Ecology

Swale is lucky to have a diverse range of landscapes, from internationally important wetlands, ancient woodlands and heritage orchards to wildflower grasslands and award-winning country parks.

The Swale Local Plan contains robust policies on landscape and biodiversity, and the Council has been adapting to changes in government policy and guidance, such as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). Both offer benefits for people and nature and will be critical to the preservation and recuperation of nature in Swale.

Action	Department	Outcome
To support and align the Council to the Kent Biodiversity Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	• Planning Policy • Climate Emergency	That Swale Borough Council's policy, guidance, and action contributes towards the overall aims of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy and the LNRS.
To make the most of BNG requirements to improve the state of nature in Swale.	• Planning Policy • Planning Applications	The development of a robust Local Plan policy which supports the statutory 10% BNG requirement on development, potentially 20%.
To investigate a pilot study for a Swale habitat bank.	• Planning Policy	That the council understands whether a habitat bank could be developed for the delivery of off-site BNG.
To investigate the leasing of council owned woodlands to educational institutions for management.	• Greenspaces • Property Services • Climate Emergency	That woodland management maximises opportunities to increase local green skills and boost woodland biodiversity.
To review opportunities to increase tree and hedgerow planting both on SBC and private land.	• Greenspaces.	That urban areas within the borough are more resilient against extreme weather events such as flooding and through an increased canopy cover.

10. The opportunity for Swale: Co-Benefits of Climate Action

The Fifth Assessment Report for the IPCC defines co-benefits as the "positive effects that a policy or measure aimed at one objective may have on other objectives.'

In Swale's 2019 Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration, the council stated that in delivering projects which contributed towards the fulfilment of our targets we would avoid any adverse impacts on our most vulnerable residents. The transition towards a sustainable Council and Borough would be just, and equitable, and used as a step change for both people and the environment. Many of our activities since the declaration have enacted this, and this action plan will ensure this ethos is continued.

Some of the benefits that effective climate action will incur are illustrated below.

10.1 Strong Economy and Infrastructure

The transition to net-zero brings the opportunity to strengthen the economy and build more resilient infrastructure.

Protected and enhanced biodiversity have the potential to sequester carbon and strengthen local tourism economies.

Improvements in mental and physical health from integrated transport systems that encourage active travel may mean fewer school and workdays being missed due to illness, with decreased demand on health services and improved economic output.

Expanding markets for renewable technologies creates job opportunities. Reduced expenditure on household bills due to improvements in energy efficiency and the installations of domestic renewables would create space for extra spending in the tourism, luxury, and services industries.

Reduced costs for businesses will ensure business continuity and support further economic growth.

10.2 Resilient, Thriving Environment.

Swale is lucky to have a diverse range of landscapes, from internationally important wetlands, ancient woodlands and heritage orchards to wildflower grasslands and award-winning country parks.

When conserved and enhanced, these can have a multitude of benefits.

Healthy ecosystems can function as natural buffers against the worst effects of climate change, protecting communities against flooding and heatwaves, while also providing space for people to exercise and improve their physical and mental health.

10.3 Empowering and Connecting Communities.

Swale is already home to a wealth of community groups who help make the Borough a vibrant place to live and visit.

The collaborative networks required to address climate change can lead to greater recognition of the contributions of community, offering a chance for individuals to foster new connections within their communities.

10.4 Health and Wellbeing

Swale residents face disproportionate health adversities, with 73% of adults classed as overweight, as opposed to the UK average of 64%.

Many of the activities identified to support the transition to net-zero offers a wide range of benefits to health and wellbeing.

Energy efficient homes can help reduce incidences of mould related health issues, while improvements in air quality will benefit the health of residents.

The preservation and enhancement of biodiversity has a wide range of benefits, from improved natural resilience to extreme weather and disasters such as flooding, improved air quality, and the incentivisation of physical activity such as walking and cycling.

10.5 Secure Power and Warm Homes

Swale is the second most deprived district in Kent, with 11.9% of households experiencing fuel poverty in 2022.

The transition to a decarbonised grid, and the uptake of domestic renewables will improve the UK's energy security, shielding taxpayers from external shocks to the market, while improvements to the energy efficiency of homes will significantly reduce expenditure on bills.

Appendix 1 – Swale Borough Council's Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency

A Climate and Ecological Emergency was unanimously declared by Swale Borough Council on 26 June 2019 which committed:

1. To declare a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency'.
2. To draw up an action plan with improvement in energy efficiency and making space for nature as key priorities in all strategies and plans.
3. Pursue the Swale Strategic Air Quality Action Plan 2018-22 and to actively lobby all responsible authorities to improve air quality within Swale.
4. To provide leadership by taking all measures within our control to make Swale Borough Council's own operations carbon neutral by 2025, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3).
5. To engage with businesses, organisations and residents to facilitate the action required to make the Borough of Swale carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3).
6. To undertake actions including, but not be limited to, spatial and transport planning to make fewer journeys necessary, improvement to the energy efficiency of new and existing housing and buildings, improved public transport especially in rural areas; encouraging active transport, developing the infrastructure for EVs; deploying renewable energy at every opportunity, while continuing to safeguard our wild places, ancient woodlands and hedgerows
7. To call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
8. To call upon the MPs for Sittingbourne & Sheppey and for Faversham &Mid Kent to support this motion.
9. To work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.
10. To work with partners across the Borough to deliver these new goals through all relevant strategies and plans.
11. To become a 'Plastic-Free Council' by eliminating single-use plastics from the Council's operations, whenever possible, by 2021.
12. To request the Cabinet, working through the Policy Development and Review Committee, to report the actions the Council will take to address this emergency to Full Council by the end of the 2019/20 municipal year.
13. In meeting this pledge, the Council will take steps to avoid any adverse impacts on our most vulnerable residents.
14. This Council pledges to produce in January of each year, between now and 2030, Swale Borough Council Climate and Ecological Emergency an annual report detailing the council's progress against Swale's carbon neutral action plan, enabling members, residents, and other stakeholders to hold the council to account for the delivery of this pledge.

Appendix II: Adopted Local Plan and Local Plan Review.

The 2017 adopted Local Plan, Bearing Fruits 2031 number one Core Objective is to 'Adapt to climate change with innovation, reduced use of resources, managed risk to our communities and opportunities for biodiversity to thrive' (p.20). Furthermore, policy ST1, Delivering sustainable development in Swale sets out that 'to deliver sustainable development in Swale, all development proposals will, as appropriate… meet the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change through a) the promotion of sustainable design and construction, the expansion of renewable energy, the efficient use of natural resources and the management of emissions b) the management and expansion of green infrastructure and c) applying planning policies to manage flood risk and coastal change. A range of other policies across the plan also seek to mitigate and adapt to the challenges of climate change.

On 12 December 2024 a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published. The NPPF defines the purpose of the planning system as contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development with three overarching objectives – economic, social, and environmental. Within the environmental objective is included mitigation and adaption to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy. Because of this, climate change is an important element running through the adopted local plan.

The Local Plan is currently being reviewed and is due to be adopted in autumn 2027. The Council is working to ensure that the topic of climate change is properly represented within this, forming a green thread throughout the Local Plan Review.

Appendix III Strategies relevant to our Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Action Plan

Swale Borough Council Strategies and plans

Bearing Fruits 2031 – Local Plan adopted July 2017

Electric Vehicle Strategy (2022-2030)

Air Quality Action Plan (2023-2028)

Air Quality and Planning – Technical Guidance (2024)

Swale Economic Improvement Plan (2020-2023)

Tree Maintenance Policy (2024-2028)

Commissioning and Procurement Policy

Parking Standards SPD

Kent County Council Strategies

Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

Kent Active Travel Strategy (2018/2019)

Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 - 2045

Kent Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Kent Downs AONB Management Plan (2021- 2026)

Appendix IV: Glossary of Terms

BNG – Biodiversity Net Gain

CCC - Climate Change Committee

CCRA – Climate Change Risk Assessment

CCRIA – Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment

CO_2 – Carbon Dioxide

COP21 – United Nations Conference of the Parties

CO_2e – Carbon Dioxide Equivalents

Defra – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

DESNZ – Department for Energy Security and Net-Zero

ELES – Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

FES – Future Energy Scenarios

GHG – Greenhouse Gases

INNS – Invasive and Non-Native Species

LAEP – Local Area Energy Plan

LCWIP – Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan

LNRS – Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LULUCEF – Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

MH_4 – Methane

NO_2 – Nitrous Oxide

O_3 – Ozone

PPM- parts per million

UKCP – United Kingdom Climate Projections

UNFCCC – United Nations Convention on Climate Change

WMO – World Meteorological Organisation

Report title, background information and recommendation(s)	Date of meeting	Open or exempt	Lead Officer and report author
Review of Air Quality Management Areas in East Street (AQMA 3) and Teynham (AQMA 5)	July 2025	Open	Head of Service: Duncan Haynes Report Author: Clare Lydon
Public Conveniences Review	July 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell & Joanne Johnson Report Author: Andre Bowen
Grounds Maintenance Contract	July 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Jay Jenkins
Waste and Street Cleansing Service Update	July 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Alister Andrews
Open Space and Play Strategy	July/September 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Jay Jenkins
Stray Dog Policy	September 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Michelle Sampson
Waste and Street Cleansing Service Update	November 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell

			Report Author: Alister Andrews
Climate and Ecological Emergency Annual Report	November 2025	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Janet Hill
Litter Enforcement Service Review	TBC	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell Report Author: Alister Andrews
Impact of Local Government Reorganisation on Council Environment Priorities and Projects	TBC	Open	Head of Service: Martyn Cassell