










Climate Action Strategy

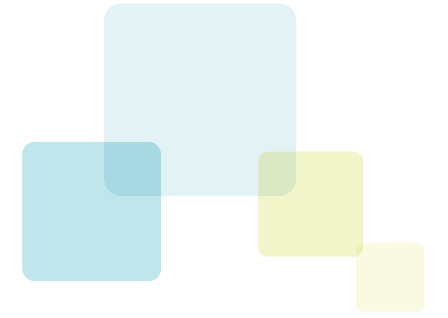


2024 - 2030

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Foreword

Councillor Ian Manders

Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Biodiversity and Planning Policy



Councillor Ian Manders

I am pleased to present the most recent version of Kingston's Climate Action Strategy, formerly known as the Climate Action Plan. This updated document builds upon the work set out in the previous version, recognising the urgency of taking action to address climate change.

While great strides have been taken to power the National Grid with more renewable energy than ever, there should be no complacency in reducing emissions. As noted by the Climate Change Committee, the UK is not on track to reach its targets, highlighting a shortfall in progress on reducing transport and building emissions.

The council cannot tackle climate change alone and the cost of action will need to be shared by businesses, homeowners and central and local governments. However, the costs and risks of inaction have never been so clear, with communities across the world being impacted by flooding, heatwaves, food shortages and droughts.

To address these challenges we are taking a renewed approach by setting out key objectives, long term measures of success and areas of activity where external funding is needed, setting out a clear vision for 2030.

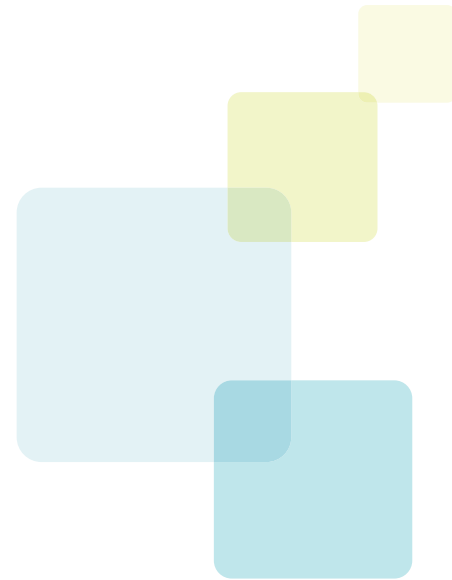
To ensure this document is as flexible and practicable as possible, we are supplementing it with annual delivery plans which will allow us to be more agile and to focus efforts on the "doing" of projects and interventions

needed. Our immediate priority has been focused on the council's own operations with projects underway to reduce the emissions from the buildings and housing we maintain but this Strategy sets out clearly our aim to widen this scope rapidly. By taking action now, we are all helping to create a greener borough for current and future generations.

**Councillor Ian Manders,
Portfolio Holder for Climate Action, Biodiversity and Planning Policy.**



Introduction



Climate breakdown represents one of the greatest challenges facing the Royal Borough of Kingston in the coming years. In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency, and in 2022 the council's Climate Action Plan recognised the urgent need for action and the council's essential role in this. The key targets of net zero in council operations by 2030 and to support the wider borough to target 2038, as well as a detailed climate action response, were set out in Kingston's first Climate Action Plan. These central aims are maintained in this revised Strategy. Due to the work that has been undertaken in the past two years, this document is able to set out a clearer vision of the work needed between now and 2030.

Over the last two years policies and actions to combat harmful climate change have been embedded across council operations. A number of the Kingston Council Plan priorities directly relate to climate change mitigation, adaptation and environmental sustainability. However, it is also vital that impacts on the environment and contribution to global carbon emissions, as well as extreme weather changes likely to be experienced by the borough, continue to be considered as part of all of council actions and priorities.

Taking climate action will bring real positives for Kingston that are much wider than protecting our community from adverse weather impacts. A cleaner, greener Kingston is a healthier borough, with reduced NHS costs, better housing, better transport and a reduction in poverty and inequality. The key to our success will be taking a long-term view in everything that we do, making decisions that will benefit our borough in the present and the future.



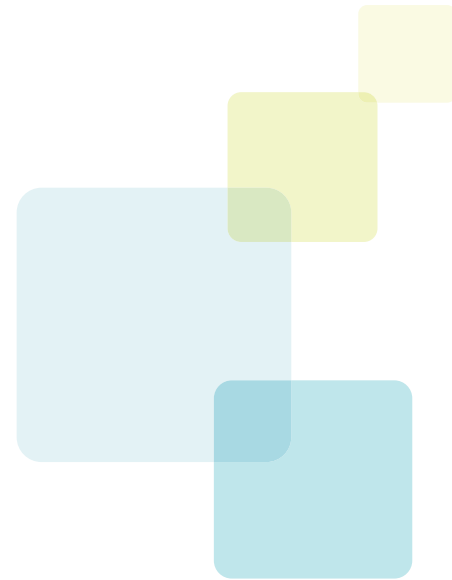
Addressing climate change will require a collective effort on the journey to net zero carbon, though we do recognise that some individuals and organisations are in a position to make larger changes than others. We know that we are not able to do this on our own, particularly the 2038 target will need to be a collaborative effort. We do recognise the leadership role that we can take - by lobbying national Government and by building relationships, trust and supporting our community partners, we will act as a facilitator and enabler for change. While local authorities have limited direct control over total carbon emissions, they have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local area¹. There is already lots of good activity happening outside of the council, with many active community groups. Part of our role will be supporting this activity to occur and facilitating connections between the positive activities already underway, signposting and helping our residents to understand what is already happening, along with helping them see a role for themselves.

¹Energy Saving Trust (PNZ0061)

The engagement activity to date has provided a very clear steer in terms of the need to be creative in our approach to engagement. We will continue to work together with our partners to respond to community needs, while prioritising our spend, maximising efficiency and empowering community groups to provide support within their areas of influence.

This 2024 Climate Action Strategy contains large scale metrics that will be used to track progress towards the central aims described here. To allow for more agility in updating actions as they are achieved or as governance structures change, this revised Strategy no longer contains a full list of actions under each theme. Instead a Delivery Plan will be published on our website on an annual basis, setting out how priority outcomes will be delivered and contribute towards achieving this vision for the borough.

2030: Delivering net zero in council operations



Kingston Council remains committed to leading the way in reducing direct emissions from council activities and meeting the ambitious target for net zero by 2030. This target includes the emissions from energy, water, and refrigerants (for air conditioning) used in buildings the council owns or pays for, the street lighting in the borough, all vehicles owned or leased and all staff business travel.

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of emissions under the 2030 target as of the 2023/24 financial year. The council has benefited from reductions in these emissions due to more renewable energy in the National Grid, as well as direct efforts to improve the energy efficiency of council buildings, lighting, fleet and travel. A review of council building assets to allow needed services to be provided in the best and most efficient way, has also meant that some buildings have been sold or repurposed. All these factors have contributed to a 37% reduction in emissions since the baseline year of 2017/18. A pathway to Net Zero 2030 Strategy was accepted by the Place Committee in March 2024 and has greatly informed this revised Strategy.

Alongside these efforts to reduce emissions from sources already known and measured, we recognise the need to continue to improve understanding



and measurement of emissions from other assets that are directly paid for and/or owned by the council. The scope of this 2030 target may well expand as better data is gathered and analysis methods become available e.g. staff business travel mileage by train and bus and emissions from remote working. Any changes to emission calculation methods will be published openly and recalculations be undertaken as required.

Council's greenhouse gas emissions 2023/24 (tCO₂e)

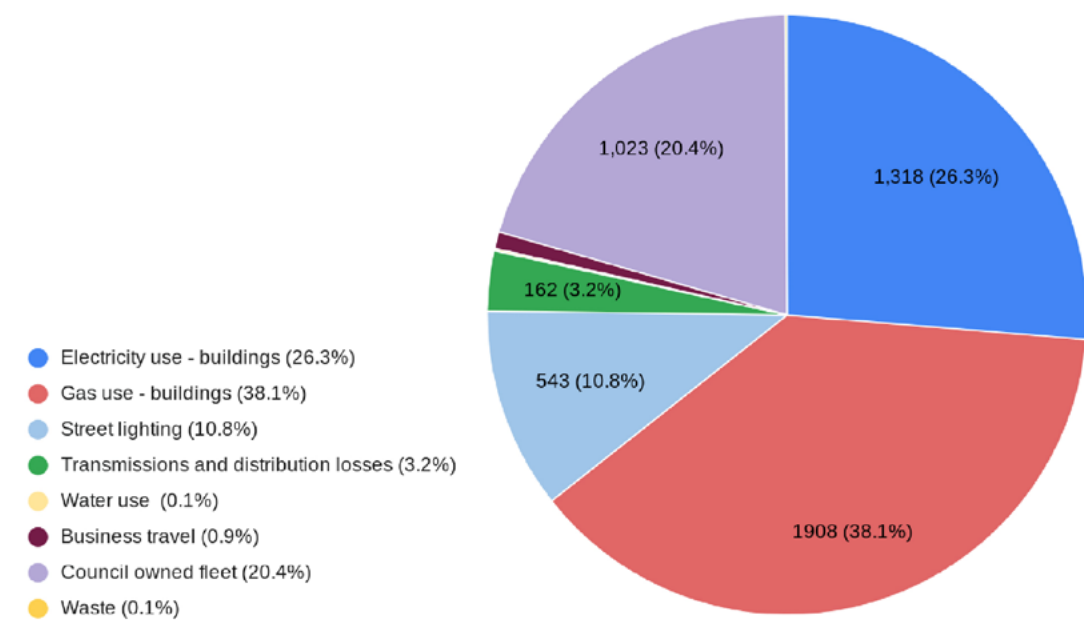
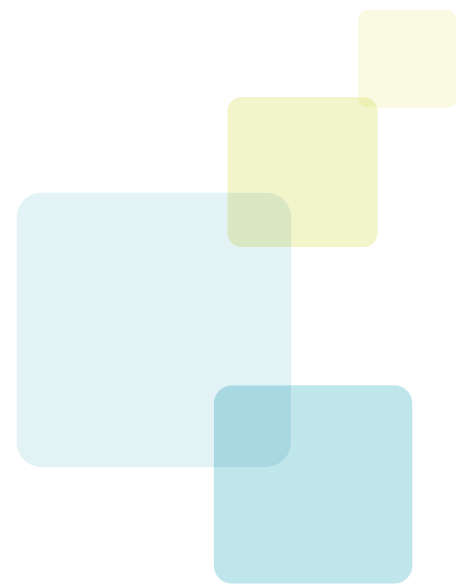


Figure 1 Royal Borough of Kingston greenhouse gas emissions within the 2030 target scope shown as tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents broken down by source type such as Electricity Use, Gas use, Street Lighting, Transmission and Distribution losses of electricity passing through the national grid, Water supplied to buildings and parks, Staff Business Travel by approved car, Emissions from council owned and leased vehicles.



2038: Enabling net zero for Kingston

Progress towards the council pledge to support the whole borough to work toward net zero by 2038 can be tracked by using national data of emissions from all activities inside Kingston’s borough boundary, our “territorial” greenhouse gas emissions². Figure 2 shows the change in these emissions from 2005 to 2022. Emissions from Transport, in homes (Domestic) and for business (Commercial) activities are the biggest categories of use, and therefore need to be a focus of council efforts across the borough.

The reduction seen during 2020 was due to changes in behaviour during the COVID pandemic but emissions rebounded to similar levels in 2021 before reducing again in 2022. All uses have reduced their carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions during this time - mostly due to national changes in how electricity is produced, with more renewable energy being made.

Though carbon emissions are reducing in the borough, to date those changes have not kept up with the annual reductions of 12.8% needed to meet international commitments³. The council will continue to work with businesses, residents and visitors to help

continue and accelerate this downward trend and achieve the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required for the path to net zero by 2038. It is also important to note that even should the ultimate targets of reaching net zero by 2030 and 2038 be achieved, the faster these reductions can be made, the better.

However, the carbon emissions produced within our borough boundary only tell a small part of the story and don’t reflect the true impact of activities and choices we all make that contribute to global emissions. For example, international travel or products we buy that are made elsewhere. These are referred to as “consumption emissions” and are shown in Figure 3 per sector for Kingston from 2001-2020. Though at the time of writing these are not published annually by borough, an analysis commissioned jointly by The Mayor of London, London Councils and ReLondon, published in 2023, looked at consumption-based emissions and found that people’s purchasing and lifestyle choices generated substantially higher emissions outside of the borough than within it⁴.

Kingston upon Thames local authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions

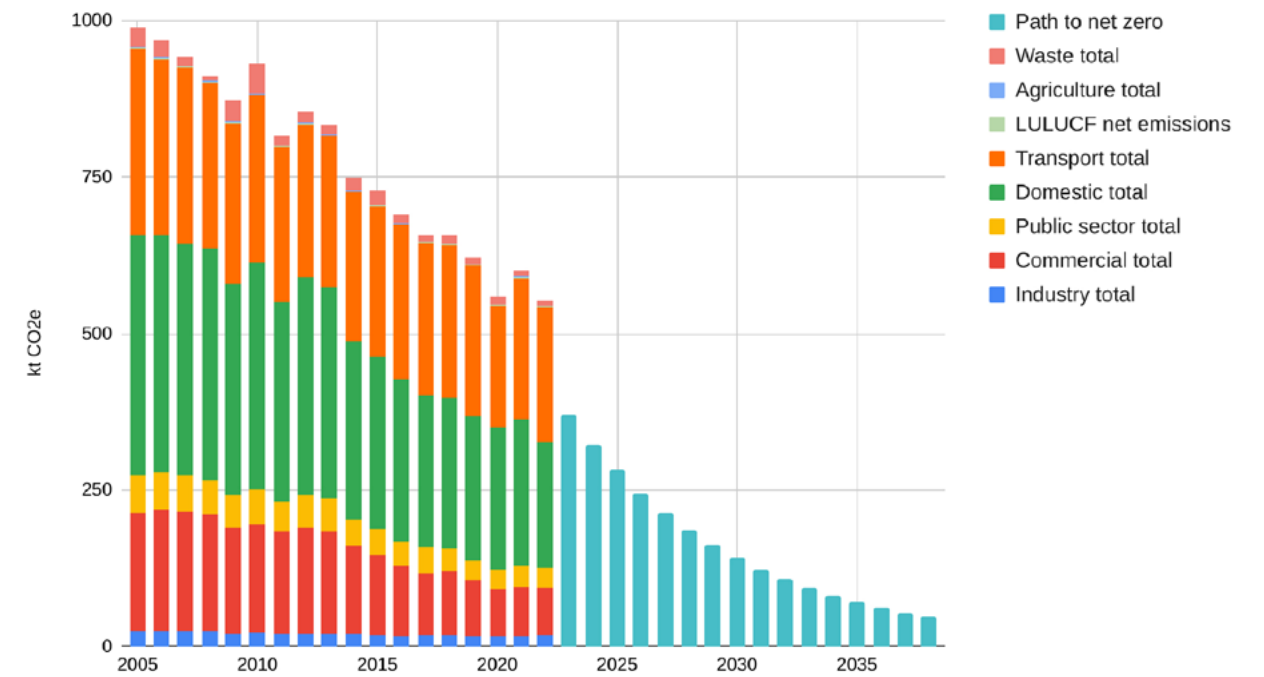


Figure 2 Graph showing actual Kingston upon Thames Local Authority “territorial” greenhouse gas emissions in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents from 2005 to 2022 split by Waste, Agriculture, LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry), Transport, Domestic use, Public Sector use, Commercial, and Industry. The theoretical path to net zero by 2038 to meet international commitments is also shown and is based on a 12.8% annual reduction as suggested by Tyndall Centre Research⁵. Note latest actual carbon emissions are for 2022 due to a two year delay during which data analysis takes place.

⁵From Tyndall Centre Carbon Budgets for Local Authorities <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E09000021/>

Kingston upon Thames local authority consumption based emissions

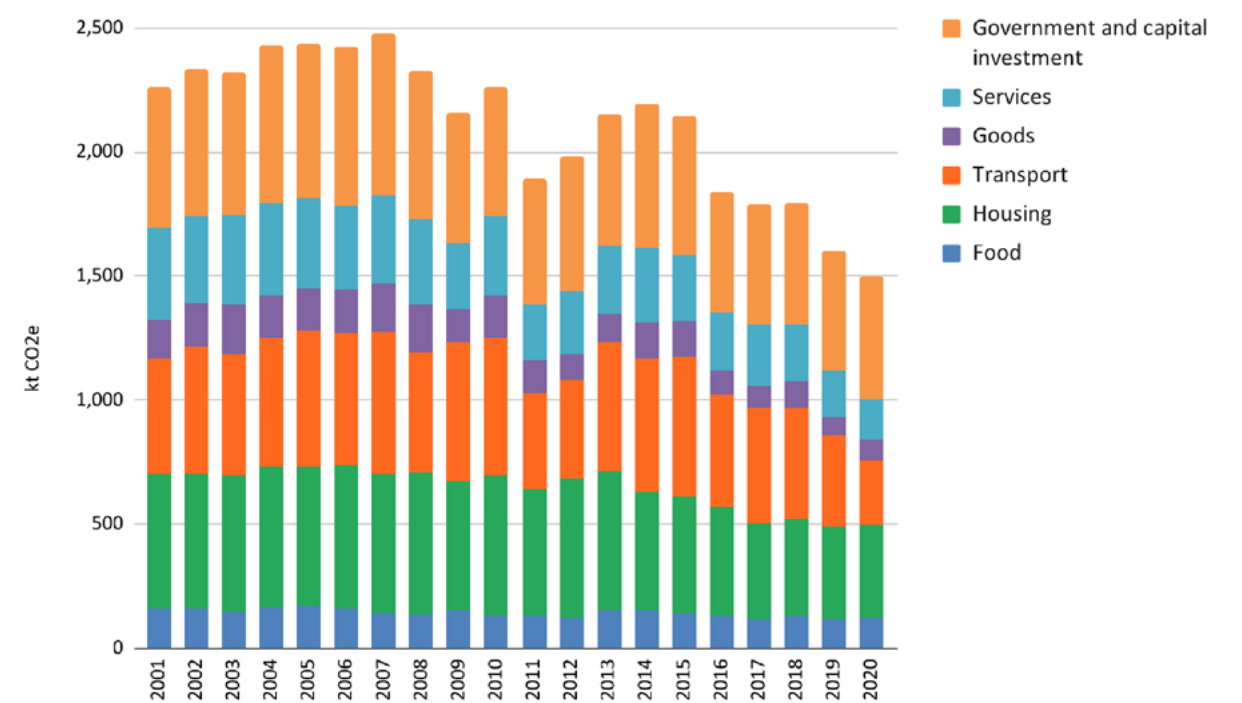


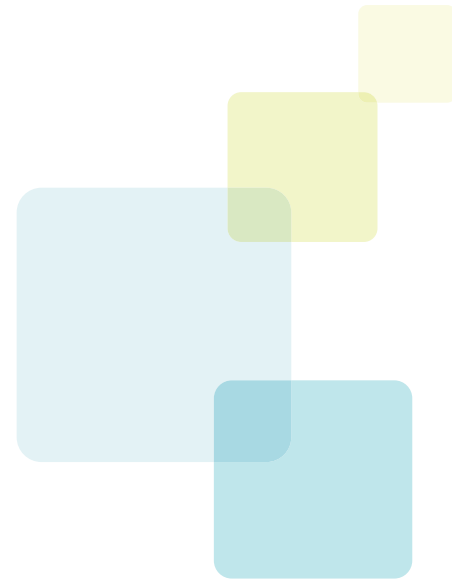
Figure 3 Graph showing actual Kingston upon Thames Local Authority “consumption based” greenhouse gas emissions in kilotonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents from 2001 to 2020 split by sector. London wide data only is currently available for 2021

² From BEIS UK Greenhouse gas emissions summary by Borough https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086980/UK-local-authority-ghg-emissions-2020.xlsx

³ 12.8% is the amount of reduction needed to meet Kingston’s part of the Paris Agreement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s pledge to keep global temperature increases lower than 1.5°C

⁴Consumption based greenhouse gas emissions for London and its Boroughs. Dr Anne Owen, Leeds University. Technical report June 2023 <https://archive.londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/climate-change-0/londons-consumption-based-emissions-account>

Key commitments:



There are many policies and standards that the council is responsible for delivering against which support the aims of the Climate Action Strategy, particularly through planning policy, development control and building regulations. In addition to this, the original Climate Action Plan set an intention to look at new policies and strategies to further support this and to ensure climate considerations are embedded within day to day decisions. Here are some of the commitments that have been progressed and now form part of “business as usual” for the council:

- Adoption of the Net Zero Strategy 2030, including a target of BREEAM Excellent for all council major redevelopments and rebuilds and aim for no new gas boilers in council properties
- A move away from plastic in council operations and purchasing where possible
- Vegan and vegetarian options are provided at all council events
- Commissioning processes ensure that environmental impact is considered, optimised and evidenced from suppliers
- Climate related risks are monitored through the corporate risk register

Financing action:

The council faces several financial challenges in the medium to longer term - even before the COVID-19 outbreak and cost of living crisis, which have further added to these challenges. The economic and financial consequences of the pandemic, growing demand for services, and limited government grant funding make it difficult to find adequate funds to meet the borough’s needs. Despite these challenges the council has a drive and commitment to ensure it is doing the best for residents and communities. We must maintain a focus on attracting green funding to the borough, like we have done successfully in the past, for example through accessing £1.2 million of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) grants as well as funding for our “Go Cycle” project. We aim to ensure that Kingston is “funding ready” and able to take advantage of grants and low-cost loan funding to enable us to take the action required to become net zero. We will review our own processes, such as collection and distribution of the Carbon Offset Fund to ensure that local carbon reduction activities are delivered.

The financial challenges associated with tackling climate change are not unique to Kingston. A recent

report commissioned by the Mayor of London outlines an ambition for the whole of London to be net zero by 2030. In that report there is reference to c£75b of funding required to meet that level of ambition and at this time that funding has not been identified or confirmed.

Funding will inevitably be a key enabler for both our plans and for residents and businesses in the borough. We will all need to strike a balance between our level of ambition, capacity, and funding to ensure that we prioritise our delivery activity where we can achieve the greatest impact. As we move forward this will be a key consideration and will require regular review to ensure that we are accessing all available funds and progressing the right things at the right time. We will ensure that the costs associated with the delivery of this Strategy inform the council’s budget setting process and our ask of partners. Some projects will be wholly reliant on funding being made available and where funding is not made available we will recast our Strategy. The new structure of publishing annual Delivery Plans allows the way we achieve our targets to be iterative and will continue to be responsive to change in the wider system.



Theme 1: Homes and buildings



Energy use in homes and buildings makes up a large percentage of the boroughs' overall emissions. These buildings are a mix of existing publicly and privately owned homes and buildings as well as future developments. A large proportion of the existing housing stock across the borough are solid wall built, making them less likely to be energy efficient. Almost half of Kingston's current commercial property as of 2024 could become unlettable by 2027 unless it is brought up to at least an Energy Performance Certificate C rating, subject to enactment of new regulations. Energy efficient buildings are easier to keep at the desired temperature and healthier for residents while having less impact on the environment.

Kingston is committed to designing, delivering and encouraging energy efficient properties across the borough. Critical to achieving this is working together with the wider community to achieve our ambitions of improving the efficiency of our homes and buildings.

The council will develop a pipeline of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects, including housing retrofit and the development of local, low carbon energy generation as well as working with and supporting local businesses, community groups, faith groups and schools. Key to this will be engaging with stakeholders, developing and implementing focused actions and exploring external funding options. This investment into the local community will support local businesses and residents while creating green jobs and developing the local supply chain.

Our ambition is to increase Kingston's renewable energy generation through supporting residents, businesses and community groups to generate their own renewable energy. The council is increasing the amount of solar panels on council-owned buildings



and developing district heat networks in the borough. Our first district heat network in Kingston will deliver heating to over 2,100 newly built homes in the new Cambridge Road Estate in the next 10-15 years. Working in partnership with the Greater London Authority and other London boroughs, the council aims to take a strategic approach to developing a long-term plan for energy demand and supply.

The council's own development programme will ensure new homes delivered meet the London Plan threshold, and are designed with no new gas-boilers. Through the planning application process, the council will ensure developments meet national construction carbon reduction targets, with the aim to ensure carbon emissions from construction are minimised. The council will aim to exceed, where practical, London Plan requirements to ensure sustainable and energy efficient development, rather than using carbon offsetting as the primary policy lever.



Long term measures of success

- **Council buildings and operational carbon emissions decrease**
- **Borough carbon emissions from homes decrease**
- **Borough carbon emissions from industry and commercial sources decrease**
- **Number of properties in the council's housing portfolio under EPC C decrease**
- **Renewable energy installed capacity across the borough**

Theme 1: Homes and buildings



Key objectives



01

Increase the proportion of energy used in council buildings and across the borough that is from renewable or low carbon sources.



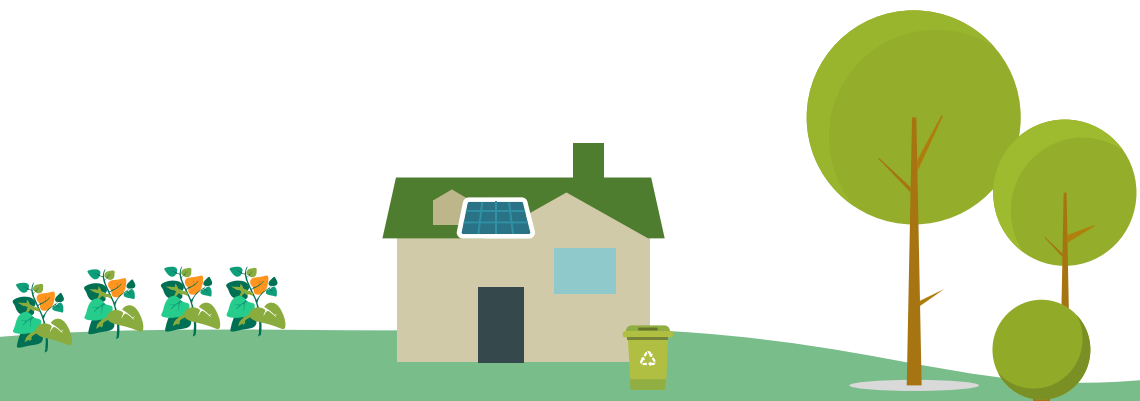
02

Achieve high environmental performance standards for existing and future council residential, corporate and commercial stock.



03

Support residents, businesses and community partners to decarbonise and improve thermal comfort of their homes and buildings through retrofit and sustainable development.



Activity areas

01 Decarbonising energy

Increase local renewable energy generation through a range of sources including district heat networks, installation of solar panels and the replacement of communal and individual gas boilers with low carbon alternatives.

02 Sustainable development

New homes and buildings to be environmentally sustainable both in design, build and in operation.

03 Retrofitting

Work to improve the large number of public and privately owned buildings that exist already, and will still be in use in 2038, so that they are energy efficient, support good health and are cheaper and easier to heat and cool.

04 Technology and finance innovation

Support the uptake of innovations in the way that projects are funded and the trial of new technologies in energy and buildings.

05 Energy behaviour

Support and engage with all residents, businesses and community partners to help reduce energy use overall and at peak times.

Theme 2: How we travel



How we and others travel impacts all of us and so it's really important that the borough works collectively to move towards more sustainable transport methods wherever we can. The average daily flow of vehicles through our borough is significantly higher than the England average, leading to congestion, high emissions in town centres and safety issues. We will continue to work hard to encourage sustainable and active travel, including walking, cycling and public transport, for everyone living, visiting, working or studying in the borough. For those who have no alternative to the private car we will support the use of cleaner or zero emission travel, including charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, while making our streets healthier, more enjoyable places to be.

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

Progress in this area is also being made through the delivery of other strategic council documents, including the Kingston Council Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026, Electric Vehicle Strategy, the new draft Kingston Local Plan and the Local Implementation Plan.

Long term measures of success

- **Borough carbon emissions from transport decrease**
- **% of trips in Kingston undertaken by sustainable means increase**
- **Number of public electric vehicle charging points per 100,000 residents increases**



Theme 2: How we travel



Key objectives



01

Deliver infrastructure that makes it easier for residents, visitors and businesses to get about the borough while reducing dependence on fossil fuel powered travel.



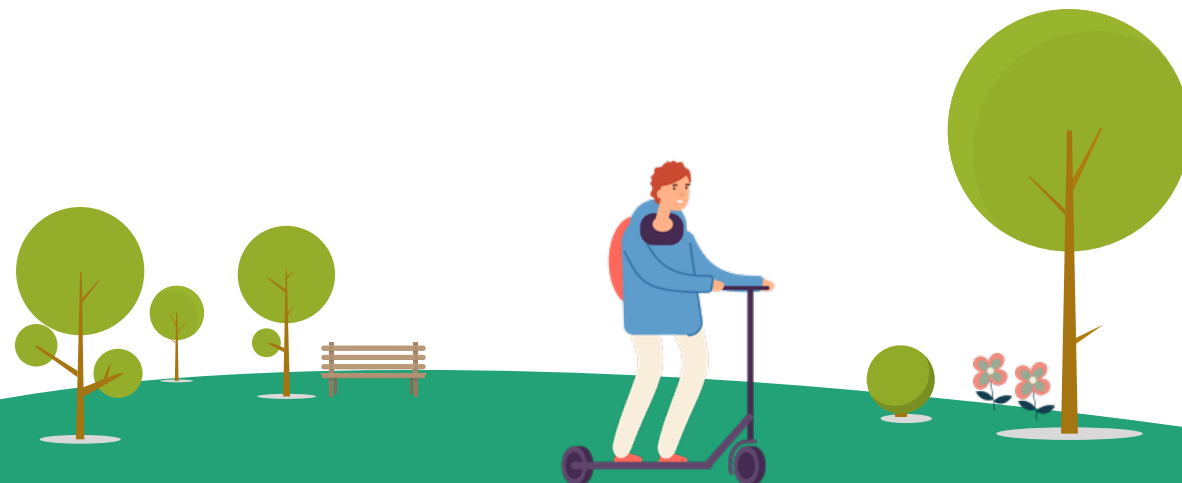
02

Implement schemes to support the shift to more sustainable travel behaviours.



03

Enhance co-benefits to health and communities from a shift to active travel options.



Activity areas

01 Regional planning

Working with other areas inside and outside London as well as major transport providers such as Transport for London to deliver integrated, regional transport options.

02 Leading with data

Identify and monitor the interventions most likely to reduce carbon emissions from travel across the borough.

03 Infrastructure delivery

Continue to improve existing and create new physical infrastructure to support sustainable travel across the borough.

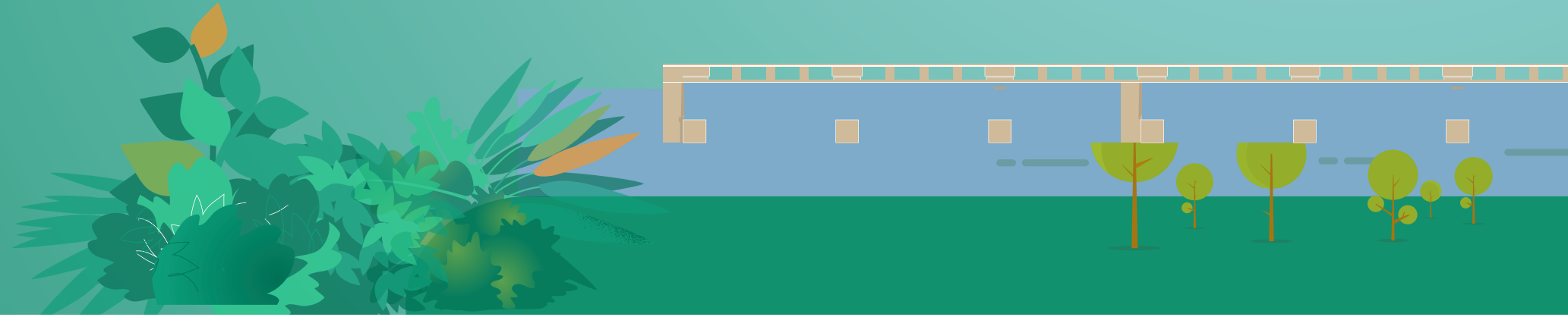
04 Drawing in funding

Identify and pursue avenues for funding of infrastructure and programme delivery.

05 Public engagement

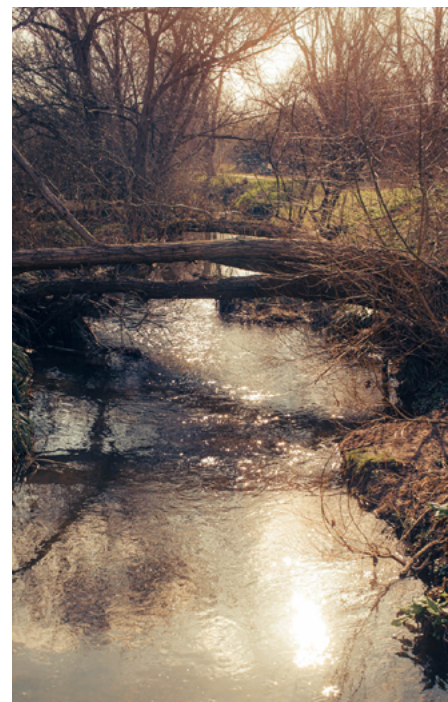
Communicate travel options available in Kingston to all users and encourage people to use low carbon or active travel methods.

Theme 3: Natural environment



Kingston is committed to delivering against both the climate emergency and the ecological emergency, including biodiversity loss. The power of nature and greenspaces to be harnessed as a tool to combat climate change is being increasingly accepted in both academic and political circles. Having functional ecosystems and green infrastructure within an urbanised/suburban environment which support a wealth of biodiversity will help to increase our resilience to climate change and effectively help future-proof the borough for the challenges ahead.

As set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and Green Spaces Strategy, Kingston is determined to be a leading borough that takes a prominent role in protecting the natural environment. Each of the species and Habitat Action Plans unpinning the BAP includes a section referencing evidence on how that particular plan can provide benefit with regard to the climate emergency.

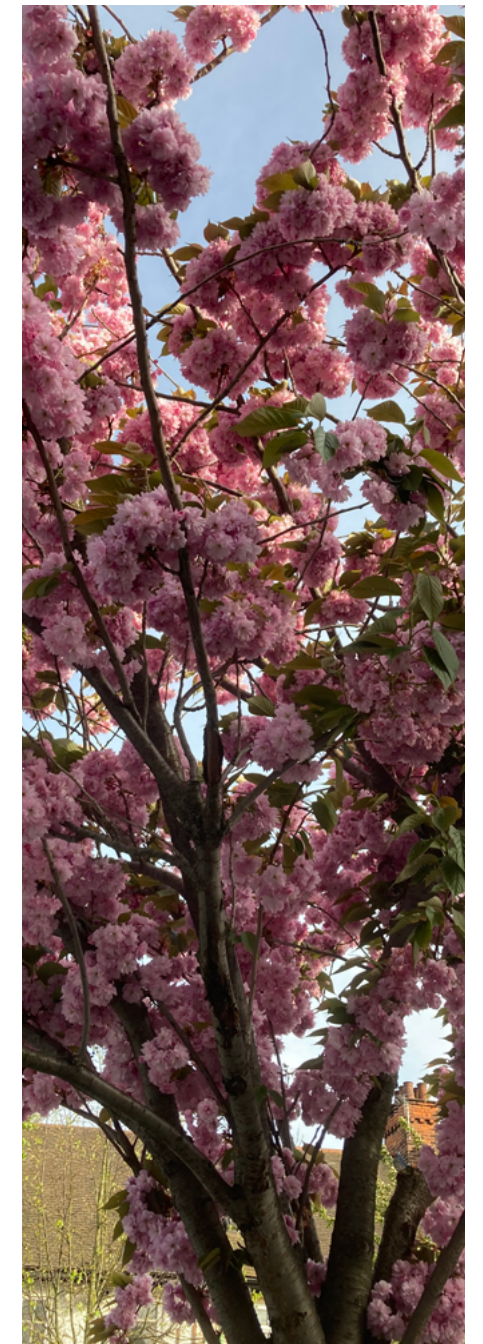


range of habitats, provides oversight and monitoring of progress on the Biodiversity Action Plan. An internal council working group brings together people from all relevant departments, working to ensure our natural environment is at the heart of everything we do. The contribution of our Friends Groups in the borough, connected through the Friends Forum, brings further opportunities to maximise the value of our natural environment.

Our ambitions, however, go even further. Through the Climate Action Strategy we aim to bring all of this activity together to coordinate efficiently with stakeholders across the borough and regionally.

Long term measures of success

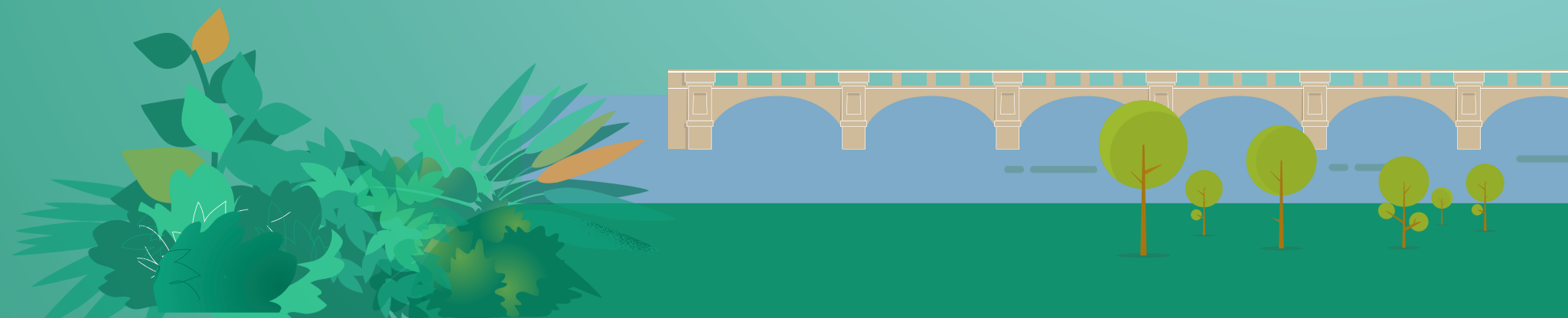
- **Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) borough carbon emissions decrease**
- **Areas of green space increase**



We are adhering to newly introduced mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements and Urban Greening Factor requirements for relevant developments in line with the London Plan. Our new draft Kingston Local Plan fully endorses the protection of the natural environment and focuses on improving wildlife habitats and biodiversity in all areas.

Kingston's Biodiversity Partnership, which includes professionals on a

Theme 3: Natural environment



Key objectives



01

Manage the council's green spaces and trees to support natural carbon capture and storage in the borough.



02

Take action to restore and enhance ecosystems and habitats and improve their connectivity while considering how they will react to future conditions.



03

Work in partnership with experts and local landowners to help combat both climate breakdown and ecological collapse in a joined up, strategic and effective manner.



Activity areas

01 Planning

Continue to use available policy and planning instruments to reinforce protection for natural assets in the borough, and identify priority opportunities for nature's recovery, and locations for future habitat improvement and restorations.

02 Natural carbon capture and storage

Deliver interventions to increase carbon removal and storage by natural assets, and measure the carbon dioxide impact.

03 Alternative management

Use alternative management strategies which work to maximise the biodiversity potential of the public realm across the borough. Implement conservation management plans for nature reserves across the borough.

04 Rewilding and new habitats

Work to rewild new areas, expand our land and water habitats, protect and improve our nature reserves, and support residents to embed rewilding principles at home.

05 Knowledge sharing

Facilitate the sharing of guidance on how residents can support biodiversity through their homes, gardens and local green spaces.

Theme 4: Waste



The creation, transport and treatment of materials, whether they end up as waste or are sent for recycling, creates greenhouse gas emissions. While recycling rates in Kingston are among the highest in London (48%), good recycling rates only tell a small part of the story. Reducing the amount of waste and recycling we produce, especially plastics, textiles and food, present the biggest carbon reducing opportunities for waste in Kingston.

Our residents and community groups are valuable partners, and are already helping us understand and overcome barriers to waste reduction, for example through the Recycling Minds initiative. While businesses are responsible for their own waste

management, we encourage them to limit their impact on the environment by reducing the amount of waste they produce, reusing items where possible and making the most of recycling services.

Kingston is part of the South London Waste Partnership which works at a regional level to design and deliver waste and recycling transport and treatment facilities and we continue to work together to set strategies that will reduce carbon emissions through these activities in the long term. As waste and recycling services are provided by suppliers, these companies also have a key role to support us with our targets.

Targets for reducing waste and increasing recycling are set out in the Kingston Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023-25, as a requirement of the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy. Setting future actions for managing waste must take into account planned legislation, which is set to bring radical changes to the operations and financing of the waste industry. This includes the proposed introduction of Simpler Recycling, which will help to standardise collection

systems across different areas and set up of a national Deposit Return Scheme for cans and plastic bottles. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will see the cost of managing household waste shift to those that make the products we buy and an Emissions Trading Scheme will provide strong financial incentives to reduce the amount of plastic that is sent for energy recovery.

Long term measures of success

- Residual waste per household (kg) reduces
- Annual household waste recycling rate (% by weight) increases



Theme 4: Waste



Key objectives



01

Reduce the carbon impact from the collection, transport and treatment of waste and recycling.



02

Encourage a reduction in the amount of waste, especially plastics, food and textiles.



03

Enable the reuse, repair and sharing of items, or recycling where this is not an option.

Activity areas

01 Transport and treatment of waste

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport and treatment of waste, working closely with South London Waste Partnership.

02 Waste infrastructure

Deliver improvements to Kingston's waste facilities to ensure that materials can be dealt with locally and enable a greater recycling and reuse of materials.

03 Recycling service offer

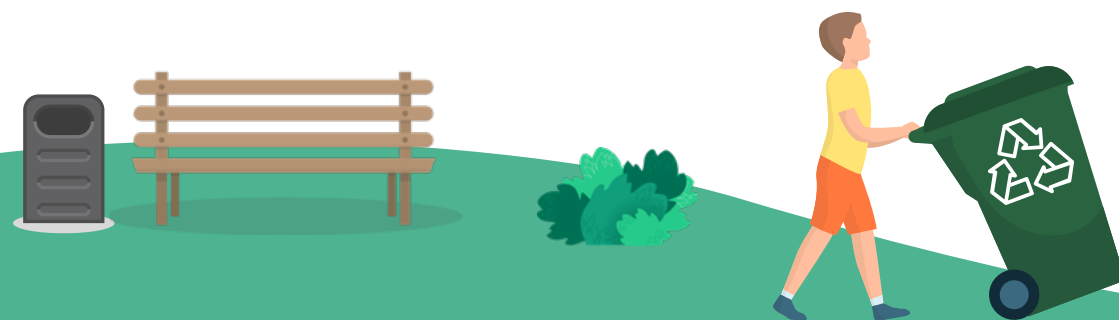
Develop our recycling offer to increase the range of items that can be managed through the services where feasible.

04 Maximising use of services

Work with our residents, business and event organisers to maximise participation in council and other waste, recycling and composting services with a focus on materials that have a high carbon impact (plastic, food and textiles).

05 Sharing, reuse and repair

Encourage and enable community sharing, repair and reuse culture with initiatives to reduce unnecessary consumption and switching to low carbon products.



Theme 5: Preparing Kingston for climate change



Climate change is already happening, and even with action to mitigate emissions, we expect to see more significant changes affecting wide areas of life in Kingston. International agreements have pledged to work towards keeping global temperature rises well below 2 degrees Celsius but significant changes would need to be made to meet that target. The world has already warmed by at least 1.1 degrees since the industrial revolution and we are already seeing serious impacts around the world and locally. We need to adapt - take action to adjust to the impacts of the crisis, and keep our lives as comfortable as possible within conditions that are bound to get worse over the course of this century.

Kingston residents are likely to see more frequent and more severe flooding and extreme heat, as well as increasing risk of droughts, wildfires, water shortages, food security and other issues. The increasing extreme weather and rising temperatures are likely to have profound impacts on the health of residents in Kingston. Not all risks will be new, but they are more likely to start happening simultaneously and interact with each other, which may lead to systemic failures - which risks affecting several areas of our services at the same time. The Councils' upcoming Adaptation Strategy will address this in more detail.

Kingston's businesses will also need to think and plan differently to be ready both for the local impacts of climate change, such as flooding, droughts and extreme heat, but also to international impacts that might affect availability and cost of particular stock.

Climate change is already affecting, and will continue affecting everyone in Kingston in this century and beyond. However some of our residents are more vulnerable to the risk than others. Very young children, older people, people in poor health and with disabilities, those that are marginalised, socially isolated, vulnerable and people on low income are just a few of those groups that will suffer the most and will therefore require



the most action from the Council to balance this climate inequality.

Kingston needs to adapt to the likely impacts of a 2 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures as a minimum, but we will consider other scenarios as well (including 'high impact low likelihood' events such as abrupt climate change), and maximise opportunities to build local resilience.



Long term measures of success

- Number of properties at risk of flooding from surface water
- Number of wildfire incidents and total area burned
- Number of properties at risk of flooding from rivers

Theme 5: Preparing Kingston for climate change



Key objectives



01

Help inform, connect and prepare communities, businesses and partners for the impacts of climate change, prioritising the most vulnerable.



02

Embed climate change adaptation across the council's work.



03

Monitor the changing risks from climate change over time and adopt a flexible approach to adaptation.



Activity areas

01 Flooding

Improve natural drainage and reduce water run-off in the borough by nature based and other solutions, and work with the community to improve flood preparedness and emergency response.

02 Extreme heat and wildfires

Implement measures to reduce health impacts and risks of extreme heat and wildfires through infrastructure, urban planning, and service design.

03 Drought and water shortages

Work with residents, businesses and the voluntary sector on increasing water saving and storage measures, and identify triggers for large scale water storage interventions.

04 Food security

Plan for future food security needs and create more spaces where food can be grown, collected and redistributed.

05 Future thinking

Continue to monitor and assess risks for high impact events and any newly understood climate impacts as they emerge.

Theme 6: Green economy



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

As set out in the Economic Development Strategy (2024), Kingston is determined to be a leading borough in furthering a green economy and decarbonisation. Alongside the council's own commitments, businesses, transport, building and activities that underpin our local economy, will incorporate 'green' initiatives and behaviours that reduce carbon emissions and increase sustainability, with a strong focus on retrofitting as set out in more detail in the homes and buildings section of this Strategy.



Our aim is to transition to a net zero economy by supporting Kingston's businesses to grow while reducing their carbon footprint, as well as attracting new businesses to our borough, helping all to have eco-friendly practices, providing services and products that protect and/or enhance the environment, as well as wellbeing and fairness. The Kingston Chamber of Commerce, college and university, along with commercial sector partners have started to demonstrate what can be achieved collaboratively. This provides a foundation for the borough to emerge as a leader in decarbonisation and retrofit activity, through its own activities and galvanising those of its partners and South London boroughs and beyond to support education, skills development, innovation and transition.



Kingston needs significant growth in the number and proportion of green and low carbon jobs if it is to meet emerging needs including in low carbon heat and energy efficiency and to support the move to net zero by 2038. Kingston's education providers, businesses and the council have major roles in this both individually and in collaboration with each other and other regional partners.

Kingston Council, in collaboration with Kingston Chamber of Commerce, South Thames Colleges Group, Kingston University and representatives from large and small businesses, established the Kingston Green Business Community (KGBC) in September 2022. This is a forum for businesses and organisations committed to reducing their environmental impact, promoting sustainability, eco-innovating and thriving.



Long term measures of success

- Number of members of the Kingston Green Business Community
- Industrial and commercial sector borough carbon emissions
- Number of green jobs
- Number of businesses supported

Theme 6: Green economy



Key objectives



01

Work with suppliers to decarbonise the council's supply chain and encourage Kingston's business and organisations to do the same.



02

Encourage Kingston's businesses to decarbonise their operations and develop innovative products and services that have a positive impact on the environment.



03

Support the development and delivery of green skills and employment programmes, and encourage people and businesses to train for the new jobs needed to transition to a green economy.



Activity areas

01 Grow the Kingston Green Business Community

Work with the existing KGBC members to increase its membership and provide opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

02 Decarbonising local businesses

Support local businesses and organisations to decarbonise their operations and achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2038.

03 Environmentally friendly products and services

Support local businesses to grow by developing and diversifying sustainable products and services that improve their social and environmental impacts, as well as those of their value chains, making them more resilient and competitive.

04 Ethical consumerism

Use the purchasing and investment power of the Council to widen the positive impact on climate change and social value both in the products and services we buy, and encourage our suppliers, local residents and businesses to do the same.

05 Green skills

Work with education providers and the South London Partnership to lead the region in developing and promoting green skills and employability initiatives.

Theme 7: Everyone together



The climate challenge impacts on everyone in our borough and is a key concern for many of our residents. However, while awareness of the climate challenge is generally very high, many people and businesses are not sure where to start in addressing this, or face actual or perceived cost barriers to doing so. The issue of climate change as a whole can seem insurmountable for one person, family, community group, or business to address. The good news is that we don't have to make these changes and face



We are building on the partnerships with the organisations and individuals that make up our voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, as well as closer collaboration with our residents, other public sector bodies, businesses and organisations, to deliver shared objectives as efficiently as possible. As the outcomes sought from the Climate Action Strategy align with those around improving standards of living, cost of living, health and local employment, the Kingston Partnership Board will also continue to be a key platform for coordinating local action.

Annually reviewing the detailed actions for all themes in the supporting Delivery Plan will allow new engagement strategies to be tested, regularly evaluated and solutions and initiatives be co-produced with our vibrant community. There is lots of activity happening beyond the council and it's important that those initiatives are recognised and celebrated.

these challenges alone. Existing groups already play a dual role of enablers and critical friends in the development and delivery of the council's climate programme and the wider changes needed in the borough - the Kingston Environment Forum and the Kingston Green Business Community are two such groups.

Working with residents and partner organisations is essential to enabling the achievement of our aims stated throughout the previous themes

of this document, particularly in the context of increased demand and reduced funding. The strength of Kingston's communities was never more visible than during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some residents met and helped their neighbours for the first time, and many joined community responses to take care of those in need. This emergence of greater community support ignited a conversation about how we take care of each other, and what it means to belong in Kingston and be part of a community.



Long term measures of success

- **Number of member organisations of the Kingston Environment Forum**



Theme 7: Everyone together



Key objectives



01

Raise awareness, educate and engage with everyone in Kingston to become a united front for climate action.



02

Build capacity for carbon reduction in places of high influence - community groups, schools and faith groups.



03

Work with partners inside and outside of the borough to share best practice, lobby for change and support, and maximise benefits for Kingston.

Activity areas

01 Local, regional, national and international partnerships

Work with key local and wider organisations and initiatives to coordinate larger scale interventions and share knowledge.

02 Schools and young people

Empower schools and young people to take action for their future.

03 Residents, visitors and businesses

Engage with residents, visitors and businesses to encourage them to take an active role in climate action.

04 Community, voluntary and environmental groups

Ensure that the existing local community networks are supported and expand to share their expert knowledge.

05 Staff, councillors and contractors

Ensure those working directly with and within the council will lead on setting ambitions for climate action and facilitate their delivery.

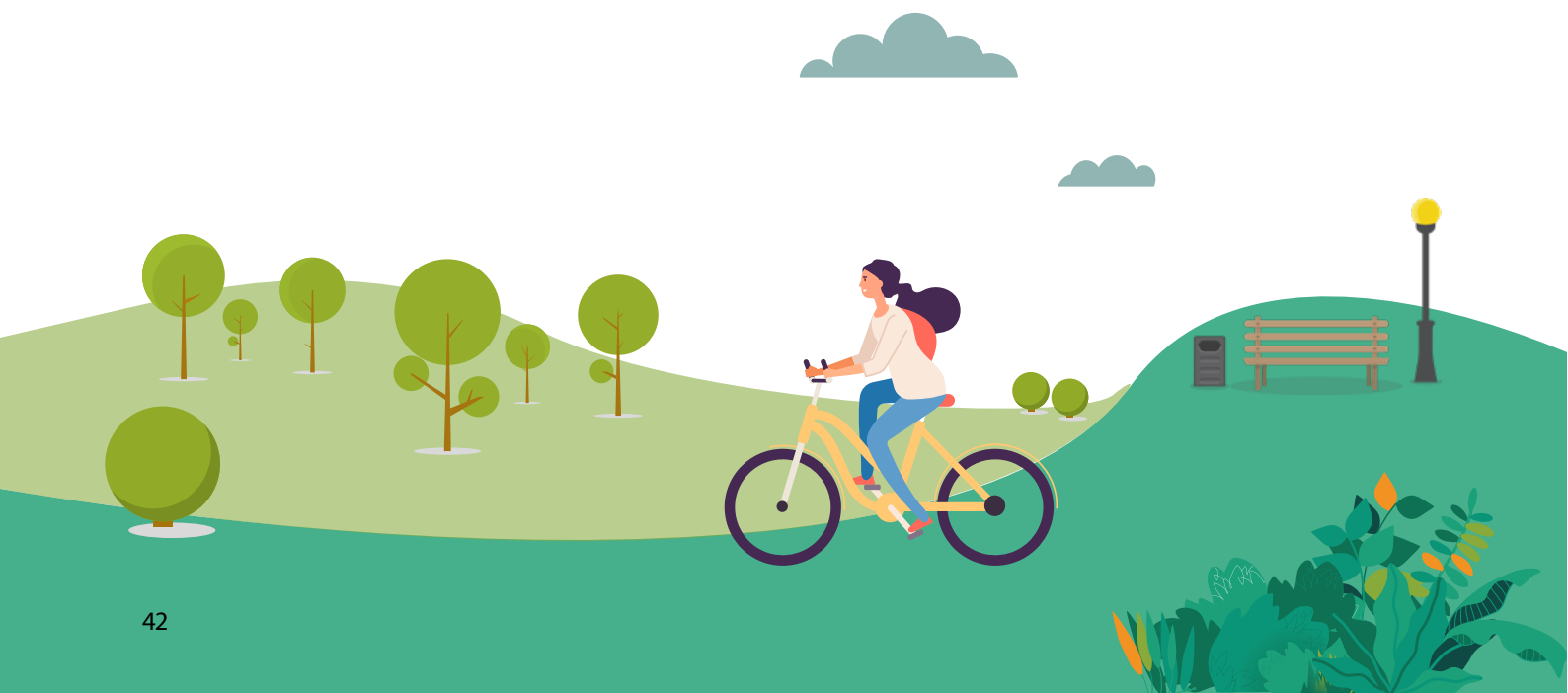


Thank you



We Are the Voice Children's Environmental Choir

Thank you for your interest in the work of Kingston Council on addressing the Climate Emergency. You can see updates on our progress, our annual delivery plans and current activities you can get involved in online at www.kingston.gov.uk/climate.



If you have difficulty reading this document or would like it in a different format, please call our helpline on 020 8547 5000 or ask someone to call on your behalf.

Climate Action Strategy

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